# The National Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

February-March, 1986



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The National Future Farmer
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## A Word With The Editor

There is a revolution going on in agriculture today. You have heard this before but it needs to be repeated because of the impact it will have on your agricultural career. Never before have so many changes occurred so fast with such far-reaching results. Farm debt, interest rates, low prices, high cost of production inputs—these are just some of the reasons for change. Two other developments require your interest and understanding.

Biotechnology is a term you will want to understand if you are not already acquainted with it. And you will want to keep informed of new developments in this area. Why? Because innovations in biotechnology can be applied with unparalleled speed with huge gains in productivity.

Here is one example of biotechnology. A hormone called somatotropin will increase milk production up to 40 percent when injected into dairy cows. The response occurs within two or three days and will continue as long as the cows are injected daily. If approved by the Food and Drug Administration, somatotropin could be marketed by late 1987. Can you imagine the impact this change will have on the dairy industry?

The other big change has occurred in food production throughout the world which has increased to levels previously thought impossible. The result is that some export markets previously held by the American farmer are no longer available.

Some countries that formerly were importers of certain commodities now produce enough for their own needs and, in some instances, have become exporters. Examples include India which is now trying to sell its surplus wheat. China offers both cotton and corn, two commodities that were once imported.

How are you going to survive in this rapidly changing agricultural environment? A good education is no doubt the place to begin. Vocational agriculture and FFA can provide the background, but you must stay in touch with the new "high tech" and the world situation.

*Wilson Carnes*

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**The Cover:** *Cover Photo by Bill Stagg*
Farm broadcaster Valerie Parks operates the board at the Agri-Broadcasting Network studios. (See Valerie's story on Page 12.)

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The FFA
# News in Brief

## See the World Through WEA

The FFA Center staff welcomed home 39 FFA members returning from three-and six-month WEA program placements in Europe this past December. The group was debriefed by cross-cultural specialist Dr. Charles Vetter.

Another group of WEA members will leave in June for placements on farms and in agribusinesses around the world. Three-, six-and twelve-month programs are available in 23 countries that include Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, China and Thailand, as well as many European countries.

The deadline for applications to join the June group is March 1, 1986. If you can't make the June date, there will also be a group leaving in August. Applications for this group must be in by June 5, 1986.

## New Foundation Chairman Takes Charge

Mr. Bill Munsell, chairman of Creswell, Munsell, Fultz & Zirbel Inc., and executive vice president of Young and Rubicam USA, has taken over as chairman of the 1986 Executive Council of the National FFA Foundation. Munsell and 29 other members of the Executive Council and Sponsors' Advisory Boards will lead this year's drive to raise funds for the foundation.

Under the leadership of past chairman Carl F. Gerhardt, last year's foundation campaign totaled over $2.3 million in contributions for special projects and the foundation's general program fund. Foundation monies make possible a wide array of programs, special projects and award incentives for the organization's 434,000 FFA members.

## Computerized Applications Now Available

The long-awaited software packages for American Farmer and Agricultural Proficiency applications are available from the Supply Service. The versions for Apple IIe and IIc computers are being shipped now and the TRS-80 Model IV version will be ready sometime in April.

The packages contain a program disk and backup, documentation and copies of the American Farmer Handbook or Agricultural Proficiency Handbook. Applying for these awards has been made much less tedious and far more accurate than with the handwritten versions. One disk can serve an unlimited number of students.

For ordering information, contact the FFA Supply Service.

## New FFA Safety Program

A "Stick On And Save A Life" tractor safety campaign was launched at the 58th National FFA convention. A special emphasis packet will be mailed to all chapters in January for "Stick on for Safety" month in April. The new campaign is sponsored by International Harvester and JI Case and endorsed by the National Safety Council. (See article on page 40.)

## Monsanto Sponsors National PSA Campaign

The 1986 national FFA Public Service Campaign will be sponsored by Monsanto Agricultural Chemicals Corporation. Monsanto has donated film footage from a commercial produced for the 1985 TV special "A Conflict of Interest." The clip depicts some of the 200 career areas indentified in agriculture. Funds were also contributed to produce a brochure promoting ag careers and explaining how vo-ag and FFA helps prepare students for these opportunities. The brochures can be obtained through the Supply Service by requesting item CB.

## FFA Week Audio-Visuals

FFA Week, February 15-22, is the perfect time to communicate what FFA and vocational agriculture are all about. There are several audio-visual presentations available from the Supply Service that can help.

"Be All You Can Dream" is a highly motivational 8-minute film illustrating what FFA and vo-ag can do for a student. It can be used for member recruitment or for presentation to adult audiences.

"Think About It" is another 8-minute film that emphasizes the many rewarding and challenging careers offered in the field of agriculture. It depicts FFA and vo-ag as providing excellent preparation for a future in the growth areas of high-tech and agribusiness, as well as in the traditional fields of production agriculture.

Both films may be purchased directly from the Supply Service. They were designed to avoid becoming outdated and should serve as effective promotional aids for several years to come.

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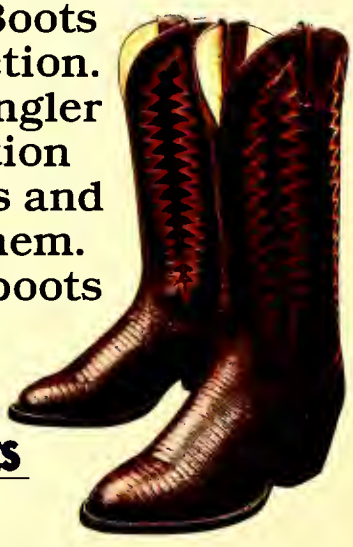

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## Eavesdropping On Insects

Insects in stored foods may be detected by the sound of their chewing using a stethoscope attached to an amplifier. Such detection may make it possible to export commodities without fumigation—saving millions of dollars worth of U.S. trade in certain fruits.

## Wheel Servicing Precautions Stressed

Since 1970, hundreds of wheel servicing accidents have been documented by OSHA and the insurance industry, some of them fatal. Many of these accidents have occurred on farms. Both single-piece and multi-piece rim wheels have been involved. Single-piece rim wheels are used on most farm machinery while multi-piece rim wheels are often used on trailer trucks, pickup trucks and campers. Multi-piece wheels are the most dangerous. Unless the assembly fits together perfectly, it can blow apart very forcefully.

Complete information on the proper and safe procedures for servicing these wheels can be obtained by calling or writing the nearest OSHA office and asking for free copies of the pamphlet "Servicing Single-Piece and MultiPiece Rim Wheels," OSHA publication number 3086, and "Standard for Servicing Single Piece and Multi-Piece Rim Wheels," number 29 CFR Part 1910.

## Soviet Agriculture Slow to Change

The Soviet Union is making moves to improve its agricultural production, but changes will be slow in coming, says Karen Brooks, professor of Agriculture and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota.

Two factors are crucial to improving Soviet productivity, according to Brooks. First, better incentives are needed for "the people at the lowest level to work well and make correct decisions." Second, market problems must be worked out so the people at these levels can follow up on those incentives and decisions.

A major obstacle is the need for price reform. In a decentralized economy like the U.S., prices serve as information "so people know what to produce and how most efficiently to produce it." In the centralized Soviet system, prices don't provide that information because they are administered to improve income distribution and are distorted by subsidies and taxes, says Brooks.

## The Smart Card: Don't Leave Home Without It

The USDA is testing "smart card" technology in its Peanut Buying Point Automation Project. About 150 Georgia peanut farmers are involved in the test which, if successful, could lead to the distribution of smart cards to the nation's 50,000 peanut farmers by next year and open the way to smart card use for producers of other crops.

The smart card looks like a credit card and contains a built-in computer chip that can store a large amount of farm and crop information, and update that information with each transaction between buyers and sellers of crops.

When a farmer sells a crop at a commercial buying point, the buyer first reviews the farmer's data by inserting the smart card into an access unit attached to a personal computer. All transactions are then recorded on the card and data already stored within the card's computer is automatically updated.

## Making Decisions With Spreadsheets

Not all computer programs require a month of evenings to learn how to use them. Simple microcomputer spreadsheet (MCS) programs have been developed by the Iowa State University Cooperative Extension Service.

The MCS programs allow livestock producers to instantly solve mathematical problems that take hundreds of hours using conventional methods. Their main advantage is that they can be used on many different computers and users can modify them for their own unique situations.

A brochure with order form for the MCS programs is available free from Kevin Gamble, 108 Computation Center, ISU, Ames, Iowa 50011.

## Improving Tractor Fuel Efficiency

A device to improve fuel efficiency and equipment performance in farm tractors has been developed. It automatically keeps an engine within 6 revolutions per minute of a given setting, despite changes in load conditions. Farmers usually have their engines at full throttle—a practice that is unnecessary and fuel-inefficient if the tractor is pulling a light load or no load at all. Now they can set it at one speed and if, for example, the load becomes lighter, the engine will consume less fuel (and money).

**DO YOU KNOW ME? One hundred and fifty Georgia peanut farmers now carry computers in their pockets as part of USDA's test of "smart card" technology. The card (left) contains a computer chip (right) which stores farm and crop information.**

## US-China Trade Increases

Trade between China and the United States has been increasing at a rapid rate, exceeding $7 billion for 1985. U.S. exports to China jumped 43 percent from last year, while imports from China increased by only 17 percent. According to the U.S. Feed Grains Council, China is seeking investors to help in the development of its ports and transportation systems. This could mean good things for feed grains exports to that country since internal transportation problems have hampered feed grains utilization.

## Who Farms Foreclosed Farms?

Most farms are being operated by either the previous owners or nearby, established farmers, according to *Doanes Agricultural Report*. The Land Banks report that an estimated 70 to 80 percent of the operators of their foreclosed properties are the previous owners, who are leasing the land on conventional terms. Insurance companies seem far more likely to go with new management. Farmers Home officials estimated that 99 percent of their acquired farms are operated by a new tenant at the start of the new crop year.

# The Mailbag

**FFA Involvement**

As a former 1951 American Farmer from Kentucky and on the verge of retiring as a high school counselor, I would like to say I have appreciated the FFA magazine over the years.

The Future Farmer program has meant a lot to me through the years and I still plan to be involved with FFA.

All Americans should know about the work of the Future Farmers of America.

*Lloyd Dean*
*Morehead, Kentucky*

**Vo-Ag in High School**

I am a former chapter president from Clovis, California, and I am now a junior at Colorado State University. For English class we have been asked to write an argumentative essay on something we feel strongly about.

There is nothing I feel stronger about than vocational agriculture in high schools. As you well know, many agriculture programs in high schools across the nation are dwindling rapidly.

Being a member and officer in FFA was the best thing that ever happened to me. After school I hope to go into teaching, so this problem distresses me especially. I feel there is more to be gained in a high school ag program than anything else that is offered.

*Laurence Williams*
*Fort Collins, Colorado*

**Sister is Reader**

I'm not in FFA but I read my brother's magazine. We live on a farm and our dad has a job in town. When the magazine comes I make a point of reading it through. I think you are doing a great job and you deserve a great deal of appreciation from all of us readers.

*Donna Varner*
*Washington, Pennsylvania*

**Keeping Up To Date**

I enjoy receiving the magazine because it keeps me up to date on the things going on with other FFA chapters. The magazine has a lot of other informative articles that I also enjoy.

*Karen Salm*
*Plymouth, Wisconsin*

**Popular Article**

Benson McClarren and his son Brian were featured in a recent issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. The McClarren farm was pictured on the cover. We would be interested in reprinting the article.

*William Schilling*
*Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity*
*Kansas City, Missouri*

**Words of Praise**

On November 13 a group of your students ate lunch at our facility as they were on their way to the national convention in Kansas City. What a delightful group of young people!

Even after the long bus ride and early morning start, the students were courteous and cooperative. Their leadership training and maturity were displayed frequently during their short stay at our hotel. Surely some of the credit goes to you for your time and efforts with them.

If you are in this area again, please stop in and visit us. Your group is welcome back anytime.

*Phyllis Athen*
*Holiday Inn*
*Ames, Iowa*

**This letter was sent to the Minnesota advisors with a copy to the national FFA organization.—Ed.**

*Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.*


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More than 240 young farmers from around the world met in Christchurch, New Zealand, to discuss concerns and propose action on a host of global agricultural problems.

# Taking A Global View

**The 1985 World Congress opens doors for delegates to address worldwide concerns in agriculture**

*By Ron Wineinger*

CLOSE your eyes and picture 240 young farmers from more than 40 countries discussing the future of agriculture. Imagine how many ideas could be exchanged and how that knowledge could be translated into solutions to global food problems.

Now, open your eyes. This dream was reality for the delegates who attended the fifth meeting of the World Congress of Young Farmers near Christchurch, New Zealand. The November meeting gave young people from all over the world an opportunity to observe agriculture from a global perspective.

World Congress was developed in 1976 as an arena in which young farmers could work together to solve world hunger. The FFA hosted the first World Congress and has been active in every meeting.

Velsicol Chemical Corporation sponsored the 13-member U.S. delegation to the congress and the tour of New Zealand and Australian agriculture. The delegation included: 1984 Star Farmer of America Larry Nielsen, South Dakota; 1984 Regional Star Farmers Steve Rogers, Tennessee; John Kline, Pennsylvania; and Mark McKay, Oregon; along with 1984 Star Agribusinessman of America Rex Wichert, Oklahoma; and 1984 Regional Star Agribusinessmen Mark Anderson, Pennsylvania; and Mike Fuhler, Illinois.

Steve Greene, assistant executive director of the National FFA Foundation; Lennie Gamage, FFA international programs director; and Ron Wineinger, immediate past national FFA president, accompanied the delegation.

### World Congress Delegates Respond to Global Concerns

Speaking to the delegates, Dale A. Miller, vice president of Velsicol's Worldwide Agricultural Business Group, challenged the young farmers to seek their own solutions to the problems they face—and not to depend on governments for answers.

"If we are going to help agriculture do the work that needs to be accomplished during the next 10 to 15 years and beyond, we must provide this support from outside the political arena," said Miller. "We can build a strong agricultural base for the future, and, in doing so, also help developing countries.

"If we put our collective minds together, as you are doing in this congress, if we keep looking at agriculture from a global standpoint, then the answers will come."

Many members of the World Congress agreed with Miller's remarks. The delegates divided into three groups to discuss ways to put worldwide agriculture into workable perspectives.

One group pointed out that agriculture's poor worldwide image makes it an unattrative career choice for young people. The individuals in this group felt that everyone involved with agriculture—from the one-tractor farmer to multi-billion-dollar agribusinesses—should work together to improve the public's perception of agriculture.

Another group discussed the major obstacles young farmers around the world must overcome to develop organizations with common goals. Currently, there are two types of young farmer organizations—educational and political. And in some countries, particularly in the Third World, any organizations of this kind are viewed as a threat to the ruling regime. Until these groups come together as one, they have only limited power in solving world agricultural problems.

The third group felt it was time to take action for Third World agriculture. Young farmers in developed countries will attempt to place 1,000 "peasants", or young farm workers, in farming operations before the next World Congress in 1988 in an effort to help reduce world famine. CINTERAD, a special young farmer office funded through the European Common Market, will coordinate this program with the help of Western European Young Farmers (CEJA).

### FFA Works to Secure Future of World Congress

One important result of the congress, according to Lennie Gamage, will be to establish a permanent structure for the World Congress of Young Farmers as a private, non-profit organization.

"Within six months, probably by May, 1986, we will hold a meeting to set bylaws of the organization and pursue a tax-exempt status," says Gamage. "We are inviting two young farmer representatives from several national young farmer organizations throughout the world to help us set the foundation of future World Congresses."

Gamage sees the future World Congress as an opportunity for young farmer organizations to meet on a permanent basis—every two or three years—to bring young people together to discuss problems and concerns. He views the World Congress as an umbrella organization which opens up new doors for all young farmer organizations. "For instance, the 1982 World Congress helped us (FFA) establish exchange programs in the Peoples Republic of China and Kenya—two counries we never worked with before," he points out. "We hope the contacts and discussions young farmers cultivate at each World Congress will lead to further advances in world agriculture."

For FFA members, the results of the World Congress serve to remind that the world is becoming increasingly tightly-knit, and what goes on in one corner of the globe affects us all. Today, the efforts of young farmers working toward cooperative solutions to shared problems holds forth a real promise for a world in hunger. ●●●

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THE clock on the studio wall reads a sleepy 5:00—*in the morning*. Outside the window, the world moves slowly through an ink-black silence. No one could be up at this early hour of the morning. No one, that is, except the entire listening audience.

At 5:00 a.m., Valerie Parks has just arrived at the studios of the Agri-Broadcasting Network in Columbus, only a short drive from the Ohio State University football stadium. The smell of freshly-perked coffee invades the office as she plays out a by-now familiar ritual.

The computer that regulates the radio network's feed of program material is synchronized precisely to the second. A quick phone call to the national weather center at Purdue retrieves the short and long-term forecasts. Market reports are torn from the wire.

Taking another sip of coffee, Valerie looks over her broadcast notes one last time.

As the sweep hand on the large, round-faced clock ticks off the final seconds, she runs through the mental checklist: Tapes ready? Volume up? Toggle switches thrown? Five, four, three, two, one...

"Hello, everyone. This is Valerie Parks reporting for the Agri-Broadcasting Network."

Another day begins.

Photos By Author

# Speaking Out for Agriculture

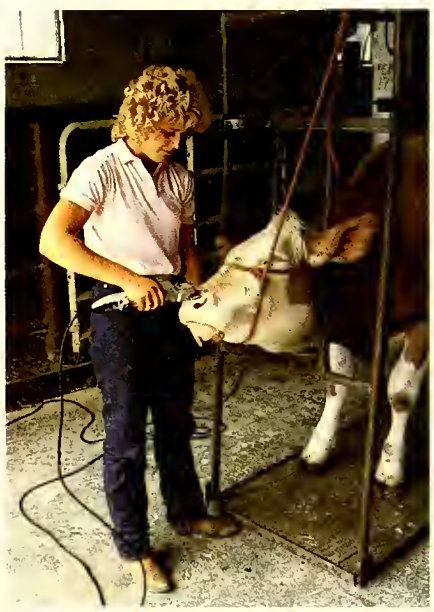
**From farm girl to farm broadcaster, Valerie Parks has used her talents to champion the cause of agriculture**

*By Bill Stagg*

### From Farm To City

It's only an hour and forty-five minute drive from the Parks' family farm in New Concord, Ohio, to her apartment in Columbus, but for Valerie the distance is measured not in miles, but in years of hard work—*lots* of hard work.

Consider her schedule: at 4:30 a.m. Valerie rolls out of bed to get to the ABN studios by 5:00. At 5:30, she is broadcasting the first market reports and coordinating the daily production schedule. She leaves the studios at 10:30 to make her classes at Ohio State. The



**Farmer and Broadcaster: Top, Valerie Parks, 21, broadcasts from the Ohio State Fair for the Agri-Broadcasting Network (ABN). Above, Valerie trims one of the Simmental show steers at a ranch where she worked as a herdsman during high school. Right, Ed Johnson, president of ABN, and Valerie co-anchor the morning farm broadcast.**

school day ends at 3:00 and Valerie hustles over to the university's Sheep Facility where she helps care for 500 ewes and lambs. By 7:30 that evening she arrives back at her apartment to prepare dinner and hit the books. And that's only an "average" day.

"You have to be able to discipline yourself," says Valerie. "That's really important with working so much. You have to discipline your time and set down study habits."

Managing time is a skill Valerie honed early in life. Her high school and college activities read like a short novel: four years as president of her class; student council officer; letterman in softball and volleyball; Ohio Queen of Beef; head cheerleader; president of 4-H; FFA chapter officer; state officer; regional Star Agribusinessman of America—let's face it, this is one *very busy* young lady.

If you look to Valerie's roots for early signs that led to her accomplishments, you find a very "normal" background. She was raised on a 360-acre diversified livestock farm in southeastern Ohio. Together with her parents and younger sister and brother, Valerie took an active role in the operation of the farm at a very early age. By the time she hit high school, however, things really cut loose.

***PARKS: "We have to pull together—agriculture as a whole—to turn this thing around."***

### Enter FFA

A broad range of interests and a strong desire for involvement led Valerie to take advantage of virtually every open door she saw. Coupled with her background in agriculture it was only natural that she joined the FFA.

A strong SOE program of 73 head of sheep, 104 feeder lambs and 6 head of feeder and beef cattle kept her busy. But even as a freshman, Valerie saw that high school and FFA could offer her even more.

"So many times now you see high school students that want to forget about everything and just enjoy school," says Valerie. "But that's the wrong thing to do because that's where you should set your goals and that's where you grow up."

As she looks back now, Valerie sees the important role that FFA played: "There's a lot of leadership activities, there's parliamentary procedure, speaking contests, FFA camp—but I'd have to say the number-one activity that greatly helped me was being a state FFA officer. It made me grow out of my shell."

As a state officer, Valerie travelled all over Ohio addressing FFA members at chapter banquets, leadership camps and conventions. Her work with the cattlemen's associations and the Farm Bureau brought her in front of adult audiences where she learned to speak out on the agricultural issues of the day.

### Welcome to the ABN

It was also as a state officer that she caught the eye and ear of Ed Johnson, president of the Agri-Broadcasting Network (ABN). Johnson, a veteran broadcaster and himself a former state FFA officer, had served as chairman of the Ohio State FFA Foundation and helped train Valerie's state officer team. He was duly impressed.

"I always have and always will look first for talent from the officer team," says Johnson. "We look at that background, but number one, they've got to be from a farm."

It was Valerie's "farm experience" that Johnson considered essential to the network's success: "We like that rapport that develops with the listener and viewer," he explains. "And we brag about the fact that we know agriculture—

**State Officer training provided Valerie Parks with leadership and communications skills that have paid off.**

*and we do know agriculture*, inside and out."

ABN represents the latest in high-tech agricultural communications. The network is the only one to have their own commercial uplink to a communications satellite. The signal is sent from ABN's Columbus studios to Johnson's farm where a twenty-foot satellite dish sends the signal up to the West Star 3 satellite.

Valerie's meteoric rise at ABN almost rivals the station's communication satellite. She hired on in October of 1983 as a board technician during the afternoons. Within a month she was on the air broadcasting. After a year and a half, Valerie was named Farm Editor and co-anchored the morning show with Johnson. Duties as production manager were added giving her responsibility for commercial production.

### Perfect Timing

For Valerie, the timing was right. "Female careers have blossomed in agriculture in the last four or five years," explains Johnson. "And she sounds good on the air, she knows what she's talking about. She's got just the right combination."

"You develop your own style," adds Valerie. "We want to be unique in the things we do, but we also pick up some things from the way Ed Johnson taught us. When I came in here I didn't know a thing about radio."

As so many times before, Valerie just plunged ahead and absorbed her responsibilities like a sponge. The latest venture for her at ABN is in sales. "I always see her doing some air appearance," says Johnson, "but the money in this business is not in the air work. The money is in the account executive side, in sales."

Sales work appealed to Valerie: "I like working with the people one on one, and meeting new people," she explains. "A lot of the clients I already know or they've seen me before somewhere down the line, and I think that really helped me in getting some of the business."

"Her strongest suit is her total personality, enthusiasm, and desire to work hard," adds Johnson.

### Speaking Out

After working 3 years in farm broadcasting, Valerie feels a special responsibility toward the industry. "Agriculture in general is hurting," she says. "Corn prices have been dropping, the livestock markets have been dropping. I think one thing that we as agriculturalists need to realize is that we must pull together and not be competing as the beef industry, the pork industry, or the chicken industry. We have to pull together—agriculture as a whole—to turn this thing around."

"We need to report—even though it may be negative information—and let the farmer know the situation out there," she continues. "But we need to turn it into a positive aspect."

Emphasizing the positive comes easily to Valerie. "I have always been involved in the community," she says, "but as you look back on it now people know you, they know that you're going to work and that you're speaking out for something you actually believe in."

From the outside, some might accuse Valerie Parks of being a workaholic. For them she has a quick reply: "Nobody can take this training I've had away from me. Everybody says, 'you work, work, work,' but I don't think it's hurt me to work," she stresses.

"I call it working, but I don't call it working. I love what I'm doing; it's not hard to do. I guess I just want to keep striving until I get to the top. Don't ask me my limit because I really don't know what that is." •••

# Food for America: FFA Tells the Story

**Chapter members teach elementary students the link between growers, graders, grocers and gourmets**

*By Andy Markwart*

WHAT did you have for dinner last night? I had pizza. It had a thick crust, spicy tomato sauce, extra cheese, pepperonis, green peppers and anchovies. Now that's a lot of food, but more importantly, the pizza represents the complex network of producers, processors, wholesalers and other agribusiness firms that bring an abundant, safe food supply to our tables.

Most consumers don't understand the path that takes raw agricultural commodities from the farms to the supermarket shelves or local restaurant. FFA chapters across the nation are helping elementary teachers take some of that mystery out of our food system.

**Students in Mrs. Dorothy Cline's fourth-grade class at Dayton Elementary School learn about agriculture and our country's food system.**

The Food for America program is designed to teach elementary students in the third, fourth and fifth grades where their food comes from. FFA members, like those from the Turner-Ashby FFA Chapter in Dayton, Virginia, are telling the story of agriculture to another generation of curious children.

Armed with their agricultural knowledge, public speaking skills and newly-revised instruction materials, Turner-Ashby FFA members go from one fourth-grade classroom to another presenting the facts about agriculture in a style that is easily understood and encourages classroom participation.

### Getting It Together

For Turner-Ashby, the process starts in the fall when a committee is formed and a chairman selected. Chapter advisor Charles Shiflet likes to use chapter officers, usually seniors, as the foundation of the committee and round it out with representatives from each class. An eighth-grade FFA member is also included to insure a supply of well-trained presenters for the future.

In the spring, the committee divides into presentation teams of four members each and rehearsal begins. Planning, preparation and lots of practice have proven to be a formula for success when working with the Food for America program. "You're going to have to learn the material before you can even begin to teach it to somebody else," advises committee chairman Carissa Shiflet. She uses the prepared script found in the Presenter's Guide, but suggests taking the script and rewriting it to suit your particular situation.

At the end of April, the presentation teams hit the fourth-grade classrooms with a well-polished, but extemporaneous presentation. The trick of being well-prepared without sounding too canned or rigid is an important one, according to Carissa. "When we do the Food for America program, we don't make it a big, formal presentation. If the kids interrupt and get involved, as long at it pertains to the subject, we let them. The attention span of a fourth-grader is about a half hour and you have to cover all of this material. You have to do things that are going to catch their attention."

### Making It Work

Ask any fourth-grade teacher and they will tell you that holding a fourth-grader's interest for a half hour is no simple task. The Turner-Ashby presenters try to involve the students as much as possible to keep the program interesting and lively.

"When we do our presentation, it's hands on. We plant a bean plant right in the classroom," explained Tami Heatwole, a veteran program presenter. "Kids understand it better when you do the presentation on a kid-to-kid basis."

Another technique to hold the young student's attention is to utilize current events in the presentation. "Since computers have really come around, we've incorporated them into our delivery," said Carissa Shiflet. "We change the presentation with the times. One year we talked about the grain embargo. We add things that are happening now that they are hearing on the news or from their parents. We explain to them why things are happening and then we give them a chance to ask questions."

The Turner-Ashby Chapter supplements their Food for America program

*Photos by Author*

**Turner-Ashby senior Tina Sheffer explains the materials that will be used in the classroom by their teacher.**

**Tina Sheffer works one-on-one with a student to make sure all of his questions are answered.**

with an agricultural mini-fair, held one week after the classroom presentations. The grade school students are taken on guided tours of various agricultural exhibits such as dairy cattle, farm machinery, and crops. Each exhibit is explained in terms of the role it plays in the food system.

The mini-fair serves as an extra opportunity for the children to get more hands-on knowledge of agriculture. It also provides feedback to the chapter. "If a kid from Dayton elementary asks a lot of questions at the mini-fair that we should have covered in the classroom, we try to come up with a new way to get through to them," explained Carissa. "It's a way to gauge ourselves." According to Mr. Shiflet, it's the young student's first impression of FFA and can be the first step in recruitment for the chapter.

**The National Premier**

Turner-Ashby was one of three chapters to demonstrate the newly-revised Food for America program in Kansas City during the 1985 national convention. They found urban classrooms to be a very different audience than what they were accustomed to. "Here, the first question you ask them is 'How many of you live on a farm?' and out there you have to ask, 'How many of you have ever been on a farm?'" said Carissa.

The chapter felt that the Food for America program was more effective for the urban students because so much of the material was very new to them.

It was also surprising to the team that the questions from the children didn't get any easier in the city. One of the more difficult questions raised in Kansas City was from a fourth-grader wanting to know the meaning of the term "artificial insemination." It may be worth mentioning that presentation teams should be able to think quickly on their feet.

While premiering the new program in Kansas City, the Turner-Ashby Chapter, along with the Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, FFA Chapter and the Lennox, South Dakota, FFA Chapter, acted as a test model of a local FFA chapter which had never presented the program before.

The sponsors of the new Food for America program, Mobay Chemical Corporation, escorted the chapters around the city for presentations to various elementary schools. The results of the visit were apparently successful to presenter Tina Sheffer. "Now they go to McDonald's and tell you everything that's on a hamburger and where it came from."

Food for America: FFA Tells the Story. Mission accomplished.

# New Food for America Materials

The newly-revised Food For America materials are as smart-looking on the outside as they are smart on the inside. The literature was prepared by The Mazer Corporation, specialists in the field of educational instruction materials. The two main components of the program are the Presenter's Guide and the Classroom Kit.

The Presenter's Guide includes a script for getting started on classroom presentations and other tips on how to prepare for the program. A word-search puzzle is included as a beginning activity. Extra informational brochures are included for distribution.

The Classroom Kit contains a teacher's guide to the entire program and is filled with activities relating the story of agriculture while incorporating the disciplines of geography, math, English and social studies.

A two-sided wallchart is included with the classroom kit. On one side a cheesburger is graphically separated to identify its individual parts and their place in the food system. On the other side, a montage of agricultural is displayed.

An evaluation form is also included. Once a teacher has finished the entire program and the form is sent back to the National FFA Center, a recognition certificate of completion and award stickers for each of the students are mailed to the school.

An instructional slide/tape program and accompanying script are also available to supplement the presentation.

# A Harvest of Gold

**Innovative marketing and production techniques helped these seven FFA members earn a place at the top as national proficiency winners in crop production**

*In 1985, the national crops proficiency award was broken out into seven different crop proficiency areas to allow maximum participation by FFA members. This year's national winners demonstrate that while the crops they grow may be different, many of their experiences and challenges are the same.*

"SOMEONE needs to provide food for the people of this world," says Scott Travis, FFA's 1985 national proficiency winner in feed grain production. "And I want to be one of those people."

That special dedication is just one reason why 18-year-old Scott made it to the top this year in cereal grain production. Like other top crop producers in FFA, Scott learned early that the ability to grow, manage and market food or fiber crops takes a special breed of farmer.

As a freshman at Spencer County FFA Chapter in Taylorsville, Kentucky, Scott was determined to get both FFA and farm experience. He entered as many contests as his school and farm work would permit.

That early experience paid off handsomely for Scott. He now farms in partnership with his father on the family's 1,350-acre grain and hog farm. This past year he rented 134 acres of corn, 175 acres of soybeans and about 13 acres of tobacco.

A common thread among all of this year's crop production winners was their ability to use bold production and marketing techniques. Scott and his father, Anthony, forward contracted crops in the futures market, resulting in a guaranteed profit on soybeans. "Contracting is a good way to market and plan for profits," says Scott.

In addition, Scott has used computerized records to keep track of cash flow and crop budgets over the past two years. "This has really helped increase the accuracy of our crop and livestock planning," he explains.

**Above, Brian Hayenga, national proficiency winner in cereal grain production, inspects a field of Caldwell wheat for good root development and harmful insects. Close attention to detail have earned Brian and six other FFA members top honors in new crop proficiency awards.**

Such good planning and management have resulted in yields of 160 bushels per acre in corn and 60 bushels per acre in soybeans. Scott says both fertile soil and good weed control helped. "But overall management is by far the most important factor to those high yields," he adds.

Keeping production costs low is one reason why Bryan Hayenga, of the Rochelle, Illinois, FFA Chapter, earned a national proficiency award this year in cereal grain production. "I don't use the most expensive machinery, so that cuts

*(Continued on Page 18)*

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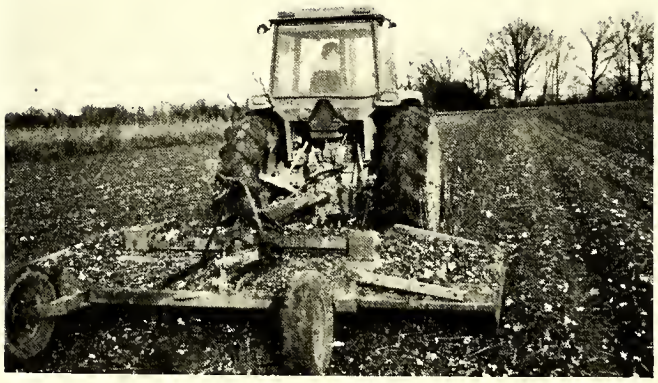
# Crops

*(Continued from Page 16)*

down on my costs," says the 19-year old wheat producer from Kings, Illinois. "I also use minimum tillage, which helps cut fuel and labor costs, too."

Bryan began his Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) program four years ago by renting two acres of land from his father on a 50-50 basis. He slowly expanded, renting 40 acres on a 100 percent cash rent basis as a sophomore, then 80 acres as a junior, and 100 acres as a senior. Good production and management skills paid off in yields of 82 bushels of wheat per acre as a junior, and 96 bushels per acre as a senior.



**Cindy Carmack, national winner in fiber crop production, shreds stalks in early spring and disks them into the soil to add organic matter.**

### Setbacks Can Happen

Bryan's path to success has not been made without setbacks. As a junior, he was disappointed after a second-place finish in crop production competition. "I could have called it quits, but I kept pushing," he says. "You just can't let little setbacks bother you." Bryan adds that high interest rates and low commodity prices may create even larger challenges in the long run. In spite of those obstacles, however, he is still optimistic about his future in farming.

"I like the challenges," he says. "My SOE program has been a challenge. I kind of grabbed the bull by the horns and went for it. Now I'm glad I did."

Financing is a major hurdle for any young farmer. Bryan's father, Wayne, helped him get started by co-signing bank loans.

Mike Pachta, the national proficiency winner in forage production, worked in the family dairy business to earn money to buy forage equipment. Mike, from Belleville, Kansas, now works for his dad but owns 15 percent interest in the forage crops produced on the farm.

"One of the most important management techniques I learned was finding the best ways to use our high-moisture silo," says Mike. Last year the 18-year-old grew 220 acres of alfalfa, cereal grains, silage sorghum, vetch and prairie hay. He is also in charge of weed control and pasture rotation.

"We're trying to cut and chop at exactly the right moisture to get maximum protein and efficiency," says Mike. "Collection of samples and testing for moisture is time consuming, but necessary."

### Light Debt Load

Bruce Boyum, national proficiency winner in diversified crop production, echoes a new wariness to heavy debt loads among young farmers. Current farm credit problems have made him cautious.

"It would be nice to own land someday," he says. "But as long as cash rent is easier to cash flow than purchasing land, I am content to lease."

Bruce, from Wanamingo, Minnesota, started growing crops by renting land from a neighbor. He and his brother now rent 660 acres, growing corn, oats, soybeans and alfalfa.

**Specialty crop production winner Kelly Freeman inspects a field of tobacco grown on rented ground using equipment exchanged for his labor.**

With such a diverse line-up of crops, Bruce was forced to become a good marketer. He first sold crops at a local elevator, but as volume increased, he began selling by semi-loads picked up right at the farm.

"That practice increased profits, because I didn't have to pay the elevator for handling the grain," he says. As volume increased even more, Bruce and his family began selling directly to terminal markets through a selling broker.

"Last year we sold new crop beans for a locked-in profit," he says. "This was a good move. I plan to sell some of my crop at harvest in the future, and buy it back on paper for the lesser risk factor and loss during storage and handling."

### Diversified Marketing

Cindy Carmack, national winner in fiber crop production, also uses several different marketing techniques for selling her crop. "I have sold on the cash market and under contract," says the 17-year-old from Halls, Tennessee. "I have also put cotton in the loan program and drawn the loan price for it.

"I think the key to marketing cotton is to know your per acre production costs," she adds. "If you can figure these, then you can determine what price you will need to make a profit."

Kurt Kottke, like Bruce Boyum, began his program by renting land from a neighbor. And, like other crop winners, Kurt is not afraid to use futures and cash contracts to sell his soybeans. That's one reason the Buffalo Lake, Minnesota, native was named national oil crop production winner this year.

"I try to understand all the options to selling soybeans," Kurt says. "Then I choose the one for increasing profits."

Kurt recognized an opportunity as a freshman when he rented land from an elderly man who was considering retirement. He gradually increased acreage and developed an innovative plan with a friend of the family to use machinery and equipment on a custom rate basis.

The arrangement gave Kurt the chance to make all his own management decisions. Kurt produced an average of 49 bushels of soybeans per acre over the last four years as a result of the choices he made.

All of the national proficiency winners in crop production exhibit a similar determination and no-nonsense business approach to their respective cropping programs. Their collective experience also demonstrates that a helping hand can make the difference in getting started—and turning a profit—whether it be with financing, equipment, labor or land sharing. Cooperation is key to their operations, something many of today's farmers are learning only now. •••

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# Army National Guard

*Americans At Their Best.*

# Ag Careers: Where Are the Opportunities?

**Despite the lackluster farm economy, there are still some good growth areas for those who want careers in agriculture or agribusiness. Here's a look at some of the best opportunities for the future**

Photo by Bill Stagg

*By Michael Wilson*

FARMING. These days the word "farming" conjures up some negative images. Troubled times, bankruptcies and rural stress, for example, sometimes give farming a bad name.

But there is still a bright side to farming. In fact, some of the agribusiness and ag-related career fields which depend on farmers are thriving and ripe with opportunity. And new fields related to agriculture, such as farm computer technology, robotics, or biotechnology, may offer great opportunities in five or ten years, say experts.

But what are the best ag career areas of the future? And what kind of training will you need to be successful in those fields?

Of course, no one can accurately predict which areas will be best. But agribusiness and university experts both agree that certain trends point to specific job opportunities.

"We are seeing people from a wide variety of backgrounds being affected by dramatic changes in agriculture," says Thom Rakes, director for the Career Planning and Placement Center at the University of Missouri, Columbia. "People are realizing they aren't going to be working in production, but that there are opportunities in agribusiness and related areas."

Rakes says ag sales is one area ripe with growth, in spite of the poor farm economy. "When I talk with different ag businesses, they often mention sales as a good entry level area," he says. What's more, a farm background may definitely work in your favor.

"Sales employers feel that people who work on the farm know how to speak the language," says Rakes. "They are very excited about hiring someone with farm experience, because of the strong work ethic. Employers know they'll work hard. They find that very attractive."

Rakes says sales jobs will always be available locally or nationwide. And most sales jobs do not typically require a four-year college degree.

Perry Schneider, vice president and part owner of Agra Placements, Ltd. of Illinois, doesn't see any boom times in agriculture's near-term future. But ag research will provide many career opportunities in the next few years, he says.

Why? More companies are emphasizing research in agronomy, genetics, or chemistry; there is a new push to develop biotechnology; and many scientists and researchers who began work after World War II are now retiring.

Schneider also feels demand will remain strong for agricultural engineers as farming becomes more computer and high-tech oriented. "The demand is not as good as years past, but it's still there," he points out.

Brian King, director of public affairs for the Agricultural Council of America, Washington, D.C., also says research will top the demand list within the next five to ten years. "Companies like Dupont

are becoming concerned about manpower shortages," he says. "For ag scientists, technicians, marketers and any kind of analysts, there will be a lot of opportunity."

Most research jobs require a minimum four years of college education, and some require master's and doctoral degrees. Some lab assistant jobs are available after only two years of education, but King says many companies will go out of their way to help train people in these areas.

### Specialized Skills

Eldon Aupperle, agriculture professor at Blackhawk East College, Kewance, Illinois, says one area of growth is in specialized skills and consulting, such as crop management. "That includes scouting, making fertilizer recommendations, and other professional crop scouting activities," he says.

Aupperle attributes agriculture's movement toward specialization to the diversity and pressures of modern farming. "There's too much to know," he says. "By the time you take insects, diseases, mechanics, and all the variations, farming is a pretty broad-based field, especially now, with bigger farms. It's tough trying to keep up with all these things."

Ag consulting, in everything from crops to marketing, has grown dramatically in the past ten years. Glenn Tomaszewski, a farm loan officer at the First Bank of Princeton, Illinois, says, "Ag consultants must be well versed in the same areas as farmers—production, financing, farm management. People are looking for specialized information."

**Tomorrow's growth areas in agriculture include careers in research, farm management and consulting, economics, ag finance, biotechnology, computers, sales, and marketing.**

Careers in ag finance may also offer good potential, despite the current problems within the Farm Credit System. "You're dealing directly with farm customers, helping them make decisions," says Tomaszewski. "You're right in the trenches with them. You're not doing the physical work, but they'll need your advice when it comes to buying that new tractor."

People in ag finance need a four-year college degree to qualify for most jobs in commercial banks or with other farm lending institutions. You may not need four years of college to work in farm management, but it wouldn't hurt. Tomaszewski says having a farm background for either field would give you an edge.

Other areas of growth include ag management, where you'll specialize in managing grain elevators or feed dealerships. You'll need training in ag marketing for these fields.

"We've seen good demand for office managers with accounting backgrounds and farm experience," says Aupperle. "We've had several openings in grain elevators for people who understand agriculture, who know how to communicate with others, and who have the technical skills of an accountant."

Other opportunities include jobs in retail farm supplies, as a buyer or seller of grain, or in ag communications, such as farm broadcasting or advertising.

Areas such as veterinary medicine or agricultural law, are not likely to expand much in the next ten years. But they offer good salary levels after extensive college education.

### Potential Growth

Aupperle says there are some career areas which show little current demand, but may grow quickly when the farm economy perks up. Ag mechanics is one.

"Until we see some movement in sales, we may be tight in getting trainees placed for experience," he says. "They're just not selling farm equipment right now."

*(Continued on Page 22)*

## Step-by-step Approach to Career Choices

SOME people know what they want to do for a living before they're old enough to spell "ag scientist." But those people are rare. For most of us, selecting a career can be a long, frustrating experience. It's particularly difficult in agriculture, because there are so many broad career fields to choose from.

To make your decisions easier, follow these tips. They may help as you narrow your career choices.

1. Before you explore information regarding the "real world," it's best to first look inward. Make a list of your own interests and values. Include your hobbies—an interest in photography may turn into a career in agricultural communications, for example.

Take a personal inventory of skills you now have, and skills you think you might enjoy learning. Take into consideration your FFA interests, and your SOE (Supervised Occupational Experience) program. These experiences can lead to long-term job satisfaction.

2. Be flexible. It's a good idea to get a broad-based education in high school," says Thom Rakes, coordinator for the Career Planning and Placement Center at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

It's a rare individual who sticks with one job area for a lifetime. A broad background means you'll be in a good position to zero in on a special interest later, perhaps in college. It also means you'll be able to change job specialties quickly and easily later on in life, with minimum re-training.

3. Make sure the choices you make are yours, and yours alone. Too often young people dutifully pursue a career field only because a parent or friend also pursues such a field. You must follow your own instincts and interests: your happiness is at stake.

4. Explore. After you've narrowed the field a bit, it's time to take action. Make a list of people you'd like to meet who work in the same occupations you're interested in. Call them and introduce yourself. Most adults are more than willing to share their experiences, or let you spend a day with them at work. Even a few hours will help.

5. Use your contacts. Once you've zeroed in on a network of people who work in jobs you're most interested in, see if they can help you find some work experience. This may include an internship, qart-time or full-time work, or possibly volunteer work.

This experience should help if you have any doubts at all about this particular job.

6. Don't be afraid to change. As you work toward defining your career in agriculture or agribusiness, make sure you keep an open mind. No decision is set in stone. Your hopes and dreams are constantly changing throughout life. No doubt your interests will change too. Make a promise to yourself to make a personal evaluation of your career field every few years. •••

# Careers

*(Continued from Page 21)*

Another area is farm computers and software. "We've got a lot of people running in that direction, but nobody knows what the jobs are yet," says Aupperle. "Everybody wants the training, but there are few jobs. The movement hasn't been quite as fast as people anticipated.

"I think down the road, electronics, robotics, and computers will definitely be in demand. It's just a matter of time," he adds.

Morgan Lewis, research scientist at the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, Columbus, Ohio, says some off-beat career areas, such as catfish farming and hydroponic greenhouse production, could offer good opportunities to people interested in those fields.

"These are non-traditional areas that don't employ a lot of people," says Lewis. "If a person could get training in those areas, he'd be ahead of the others."

According to Occupational Projections and Training data, demand will grow through 1995 for the following agricultural career areas: extension service specialists, vocational education teachers, agricultural scientists, foresters and conservationists, and farm managers. The data also show slight demand for farm equipment mechanics.

Lewis says you can get more information about job salaries and education requirements from the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Ask your high school guidance counselor to see one.

In addition, many states now have career information available on computer systems. These give local and state data on projected job demand and other details. Check with your guidance counselor or state employment service.

### Advice

Of course, it may be too early in life to decide which career interests you most. But ag professionals and ag placement experts do agree on a few universal words of wisdom which may make you more "employable" when you first hit the job market.

"The one thing that's important is that you know and understand agriculture," says Jeff Rudd, an advertising account executive with Rumrill-Hoyt, an ag advertising firm. "Companies want to hire people who understand the market."

Rudd, a former FFA national officer, made a career move less than a year ago, after working in ag sales. His prior experience dealing with farmers helped make the transition easier.

"The sales experience I had for three years calling on farmers was worth a tremendous amount," he says.

Perry Schneider, of Agra Placements, Ltd., agrees. "If you have a good personality, and you don't mind getting your hands dirty, you'll probably be successful no matter what degreee you have."

Schneider says some ag graduates will have trouble getting jobs, even in entry level positions. That's because often there are more graduates than jobs. He advises getting as much specific experience as possible.

Eldon Aupperle urges students to emphasize interpersonal communications abilities. "Regardless of how much education you have, people skills are most important. What we try to do is develop the student beyond the classroom. We learn social skills, etiquette, participate in speaking competitions, and soil and livestock judging.

"It parallels the FFA, but on a higher level. We emphasize the employment aspects."

Whatever you decide to do, one thing is certain: there is no better time to explore and evaluate different ag careers than while you are still enrolled in vocational agriculture. Once you hit the job market, it's more difficult to shop around, and the resources available to you are limited. Making the most of your time now can yield big payoffs in the years ahead. •••

## DAIRYMAN RECORDS TRIBUTE TO FFA IN NASHVILLE

Jerry Tlucek's latest album ***In God We Trust*** includes a special salute entitled "Future Farmers U.S.A.," which was used as a background for a video played at the National FFA convention in Kansas City.

**FFA Video Available**

VHS and 16mm orders for the color video of "Future Farmers U.S.A." are being accepted through March, for mailing in April 1986.

Jerry Tlucek has recorded three albums in Nashville since April 1984, and will be recording his fourth album in February.

This is a lot of success and a lot of albums in a short period of time for this dairyman from Melba, Idaho, whose family is far more familiar with FFA programs and achievement awards, than they are with making records in Nashville.

Jerry's albums of original words and music will keep your toes tappin' and your heart smilin' and features some of the best music and vocal talent in Nashville.

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# Moving Forward to Success

## Kevin Turner, Chunchula, Alabama 1985 National Home and Farmstead Improvement Winner

*Pictured are several of the projects Kevin has built, including a livestock trailer (top), adding a front porch to the house (upper left), a cattle scale (lower left) and hay conveyor (right). Kevin has applied skills learned in his vo-ag classes, taught by Mr. Tommy Odom, (far right) to his farm operation.*

Ambition to succeed, dedication to agriculture and the desire to achieve are three leading factors in Kevin Turner's FFA career. This Citronelle Blue FFA member began his supervised experience program five years ago with a keen interest in cattle and the desire to develop a beef herd he could continue in the future.

"Kevin's Home and Farmstead Improvement program is really an extension of his cattle interest," says Tommy Odom, FFA advisor to the National Proficiency Winner. "He has built a catch pen and corral, installed a water system for the barn and corral area, fenced and cross fenced eight miles of pasture, built a stock trailer and established a permanent pasture for grazing."

Kevin is vice president of Turner Simmental, Inc. and owns a one-third interest in the business. His plans include completing two years of education at a local junior college, then transferring to Auburn University to pursue an agricultural education degree. "After finishing my education I hope to teach vocational agriculture and raise Simmental cattle," Kevin says.

In addition to improvements made in his cattle operation, Kevin has constructed a back porch deck on the house, built a redwood fence, remodeled and rewired the house, and reroofed the house, barn and sheds.

All the skills and knowledge Kevin has gained through his FFA program work have provided him with a firm foundation for achieving his future goals.

The Upjohn Company takes pride in being a sponsor of the FFA Home and Farmstead Improvement Program. The people at Upjohn are dedicated to supporting the hard work of youth like Kevin and his fellow FFAers to make the American farm a better place on which to work and live.

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# THE FFA INTO FUNDS

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DANA

# Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teacher Named Top Vocational Educator of the Year

WAYNE Sprick, vo-ag instructor at Four Rivers Area Vocational Technical School in Washington, Missouri, was named Vocational Teacher of the Year at the recent American Vocational Association convention in Atlanta.

As instructor and department head for the past nine years, Mr. Sprick can be credited with turning the instructional program around to meet community needs. When an occupational analysis revealed agribusiness career opportunities rather than production ag should be pushed, he made the effort to change his curriculum.

Now he teaches ag sales and service, management and horticulture. The school is located close to St. Louis, so many members are not from the farm. Therefore, Mr. Sprick offers a co-op program in agribusiness to give these students an opportunity to get experience in production agriculture as a help to them in securing non-production jobs in agriculture.

Another accomplishment is the adult program Mr. Sprick has organized for the community. He works with 12 full-time family farm operations on record-keeping systems, enterprise analysis and adjustment of the business operation to meet family goals.

During the past three years, all program graduates who wish to enter full-time employment have been placed in agricultural jobs. Approximately 25 percent of the program's graduates, however, go on to college.

**Mr. Sprick has made vocational agriculture a vital part of the community.**

Leadership training is an important program component. Wayne has had seven state officers in the FFA, fifty-one State Farmers and four American Farmers. He has organized an active alumni association, a young farmers and a farm business management group.

Mr. Sprick has also found time for extensive involvement in professional association activities. He is a past president of the Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. He was largely responsible for the establishment of an Agriculture Committee for Tomorrow which was established by MVATA to study future trends and make recommendations for program changes. He now serves as committee chairman.

He holds an Honorary Chapter Farmer Degree and the Honorary State Farmer Degree and is a past recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from MVATA. •••


*Congratulations* **JOHN LARSEN**

Don Treadway (left), Director of Public Relations for the American Quarter Horse Association, congratulates John Larsen of Redwood Falls, Minnesota as this year's winner of the National FFA Horse Proficiency Award, sponsored by AQHA

Your hard work and commitment to the horse industry help build a future for others to follow. Congratulations, you deserve it.

The American Quarter Horse Association, sponsor of the National FFA Horse Proficiency Award Program, salutes John as well as each of this year's regional, state and chapter award winners.

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# U.S. Sugar Cane: A Sticky Business

*By Sally Garbo Wedde*

SUGAR cane growers and processors know the sugar business, but they also know business. Such things as competition, supply and demand. As the industry changes to accommodate varying government support and alternative sweeteners, future U.S. farmers will be turned to for new ways to survive. The challenges can be seen in these four areas:

***1. Dependence on government price quotas.*** The price of domestic sugar is higher than world sugar. To help U.S. sugar producers survive, the government limits sugar imports. The import quota was extended last year in order to reduce domestic sugar supplies.

The U.S. has more sugar than it can sell. That's due to a harder-than-expected push by high fructose corn syrup into sugar's market; higher-than-expected sugar beet output; and imports of sugar blends, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

***2. Nationwide move toward man-made sweeteners.*** Aspartame—under the brand name NutraSweet—and corn syrup are crowding sugar out of its stronghold as a sweetener.

Coca-Cola, for example, has dumped sugar in favor of high fructose corn sweeteners. Because soft drink companies and makers of the alternate sweeteners often are backed by elaborate and expensive advertising, sugar producers are worried that the public will forget all about sugar.

Every 1,000 people in the United States ate 89 pounds of refined sugar in 1975, but dropped to 67 pounds in 1984. The figure for high fructose corn syrups was 5 pounds in 1975, but rose to 36 by 1984, according to the "Sugar and Sweetener Outlook and Situation Report."

***3. Disease.*** Mosaic, ratoon stunting disease, and smut are dreaded words to sugar farmers. But efforts are under way to certify that the seeds farmers plant are free from disease. Louisiana State University plant pathologist David MacKenzie is studying a sugar cane seed certification program. He says the potato industry has used a similar program successfully since the 1930s.

"Nature protects the seeds of most plants from disease," he says. "They have an 'envelope' that prevents the spread of viruses. Potatoes and sugar cane don't have that protection because after the initial planting, they reproduce from pieces of the plant and not a seed. Diseases in these two plants can be spread by mechanical planters, harvesters and even during handling."

Because of sugar's growing cycles, it will take a few years to see whether what bio-tech companies have produced in the program actually *is* disease-free sugar cane.

***4. Increasing urbanization.*** The U.S. Census shows a population move from cities into subdivisions outside of cities—onto farmland.

Acreage for growing sugar cane in Hawaii is dropping permanently with the closing of the processing plant at Puna, according to the "Sugar and Sweetener Outlook and Situation Report." It says, "The 1985-86 harvest area of sugar cane . . . seems likely to decline by about 5,000 acres."

In general, the number of new sugar farmers is nowhere near the number of acres being taken out of sugar cane production across the U.S. •••


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# Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

**Tom Herr, Leslie Ott, Scott Gillen** and **Jeremy Simon** will participate in the new steer pool in the *Evergreen,* OH, FFA. The program will promote feeder cattle and grade feed conversion.

N-N-N

There were 46 graduates from the *Monroeville,* OH, FFA-sponsored hunter safety course. A local game protector taught the course. Graduates who passed got a hunter certificate which allowed them to purchase a state hunter's license.

N-N-N

*Allentown,* NJ, celebrates its 50th anniversary as a chapter.

N-N-N

"Our chapter sells honey and poinsettias as our main money makers," according to **David Rutherford**, *Castle Rock,* WA, reporter.

N-N-N

For 25 cents, members of the *Audubon,* IA, Chapter could enter the Largest Ear of Corn contest. Winner gets the entry fee money. Waiting to hear the results.

N-N-N

The *Melrose,* NM, officer team claims to have kicked the year off to a good start. They have a complete schedule of chapter meetings with well-organized programs.

N-N-N

*Fullerton,* NE, conducted a family fun night at the county fair with pie eating contest, penny toss and bale stacking.

N-N-N

*Milford,* NE, showed the movie "Country" at their October meeting.

N-N-N

The big brother big sister ice breaker at the September chapter meeting for *Antelope Union* FFA in AZ was a success according to Greenhand **Karen Hoffman** who wrote about it the chapter's newsletter.

N-N-N

The *Jetmore,* KS, chapter had a 14-page supplement published and distributed with the community newspaper during National FFA Week. It included articles and pictures of every member.

N-N-N

The national organization is providing a guide for use by all chapters to develop a similar section. Officers should be watching for its arrival.

An old-fashioned barn dance helped *Brainerd,* MN, Chapter celebrate the completion of their new barn and facilities.

N-N-N

In *Logan,* NM, members kept an all-night vigil cooking meat in a pit for their annual barbeque. Parents added potato and tossed salads to the students' meat and baked bean menu. After church members served 250 from the community.

N-N-N

FFA and Alumni members of the *Gervais,* OR, Chapter combined forces to reseed the school's athletic fields.

N-N-N

To raise money for *Peoria* and *Cactus,* AZ, Chapters the members held a barbeque and fixed 3,000 pounds of beef, 200 pounds of beans, 100 pounds of cole slaw and 4,000 rolls.

N-N-N

*Chelan,* WA, has a 13-member apple judging team. And the *Kahlotus,* WA, Chapter is selling apple juice as a fund raiser.

N-N-N

**Debra Stinson** and **Coleta Stinson** made sandwiches and cookies for refreshments after the November chapter meeting in *Thomas,* OK.

N-N-N

At the *Fulton County,* KY, Creed contest, 25 new members participated and **Derek Poe** won it. **Jason Howell** was first runner-up and **Dionue Everett** was second.

N-N-N

Folks around *Marysville,* KS, have seen the results of the "convincer," a device to impress on everyone to wear seat belts. Riders strap themselves into a seat with seat belts, then they are sent down a sloping ride and allowed to "crash" as it comes to a sudden halt. Everyone who tries it is convinced to wear their seat belts.

N-N-N

The demonstration topic for *Mohawk,* PA, FFA is "Watts wrong with your cow? Stray Voltage?" It dealt with stray voltage on the dairy farm.

N-N-N

A hunter education course was held by the *Simpson,* LA, FFA. Course included ten hours of classroom time plus an hour of shooting. Graduates got a certified safe hunter license.

The first *Douglas,* OR, County Agriculture Exposition was held this year and featured displays of all the ag products of the county. Over 800 elementary students from the county toured the expo with FFA members at each station to give explanations.

N-N-N

The *Roubidoux,* CA, Chapter served a complimentary breakfast to teachers and staff at their high school—sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy plus eggs from the FFA poultry unit.

N-N-N

There are ten new Greenhands in the *Killingly,* CT, Chapter.

N-N-N

FFA and FHA members in *Westmoreland,* KS, had a haunting hayrack ride under a full moon and warm southern breeze to celebrate Halloween.

N-N-N

*Riverside,* OH, is building a wildlife area at the school's farm to provide junior and senior high students an opportunity to observe animal and plant interdependence in the natural habitat.

N-N-N

*Gallipolis,* OH, FFA sponsored their first kiddie pedal tractor pull at the county fair. Trophies went to the winners.

N-N-N

As part of the banquet and open house at *Days Creek,* OR, they had a mini extemp public speaking contest. In order to get it in and not lengthen the program, they limited each speaker to 2-3 minutes.

N-N-N

Ten members of the sophomore ag class at *Manawa,* WI, made a hog roaster unit to roast the hog for the chapter banquet. Since the banquet it has been rented over 20 times and generated about $800 for the FFA treasury.

N-N-N

Now is the time for all good FFA members to get in the news about their local chapter. Or about the officer team, or the fund-raising activity, or the local Alumni affiliate.

N-N-N

Don't forget to use the Ag Ed Network to send news to the FFA magazine. Send it to electronic mail address Stargram FF100A. We'll get it off line and have it in a matter of minutes.

# Why rotating dewormers makes dollars and sense

Many veterinarians recommend deworming your horse every couple of months, and treating for bots at least twice a year. While some wormers control worms *and* bots, they're relatively expensive, and may offer more control than your horse needs every couple of months.

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# Raisin' Cane for FFA

**Looking for cash and experience, the Clewiston FFA Chapter figured out how to raise cane—and make it pay**

*By Molly and Michael Wilson*

SOME FFA chapters earn money by selling fruit. Others sell candy bars or vegetable seeds. But the Clewiston, Florida, FFA Chapter fills its coffers by raising cane. Er, sugar cane, to be exact.

Some of the Clewiston FFA members grew up working in sugar cane fields. Through hands-on experience, other FFA members gain practical knowledge of sugar cane management and agronomic factors as well.

"I had no experience with cane before getting involved with the FFA project," says Jimmy Haney, a junior who was elected sugar cane chairman this year. "Through ag classes, I learned all about it. I'm still learning."

Clewiston's cane chairman is responsible for getting others involved and making sure students keep their cane projects up to date. It's good leadership experience, too.

Mike Swindle, a sophomore and president of the chapter, says, "FFA members gain knowledge and good skills raising cane. It's profitable and good experience."

Clewiston vo-ag teacher Richard Pape, who taught here for 27 years before retiring, recently returned to teach at Clewiston after another vo-ag teacher resigned. It was Mr. Pape who directed the first Clewiston FFA cane-growing project back in 1960.

"We grow it as a chapter operation," he says. "The money goes into a chapter fund that is used for chapter activities."

### Tall Crop

To most FFA members, sugar cane may not seem a "typical" cash crop. It's a tall perennial grass, grown mostly in warm regions, such as Florida, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. In fact, over half of the nation's sugar is produced from sugar cane raised in Florida.

Such a tall crop—cane grows to about 14 feet high—does pose some challenges. Workers can no longer use tractors after cane grows to three-and-a-half feet. On sandy soil, growers usually apply three applications of fertilizer per year. Sometimes it is applied by air. On richer muckland, only one application is usually needed.

Planting is accomplished by cutting green cane and laying it flat in furrows. Workers then chop the cane every other node, and cover it with soil. The cane will sprout, much like green grass. Workers then weed and till the soil until the cane grows tall enough to form a natural canopy.

Before the cane is harvested, the fields are burned. Workers use firepots filled with diesel fuel to catch the dried cane leaves on fire. Depending on the wind, an entire field can burn in three minutes.

Jimmy says the cane stalks don't actually burn—only the leaves and debris. The fields are burned to clear away trash and make the harvest more economical.

At harvest, cane is cut at the bottom and top of each plant. Tops go in one row, canes in another. A loader picks up the cane and lifts it into a field wagon. From there, it's dumped by conveyor into semi-trucks or railroad cars, and sent to be processed into raw sugar.

Without the cane, many FFA'ers wouldn't have an SOE program, says Jeanne Olson-Mitchell, director of public relations for the Florida Sugar Cane League. Clewiston FFA usually sells its yield of about 30 tons of cane per acre to a company called U.S. Sugar Corporation. The company also helps the chapter in the fall by giving them seed to plant. The school usually grosses about $2,500.

The chapter, along with Florida's 140 sugar cane growers and seven sugar processing mills, fuel a $1.2 billion dollar industry in the state. According to Olson-Mitchell, 375,000 acres of cane provide 17,500 jobs in Florida, with an employment payroll of $185 million.

But for most FFA members, money isn't the only reason for raising cane.

"There are lots of ways to learn," says Mike Swindle. "You could go to college and learn out of books, or you can learn by actually doing it.

"I think that by learning this way it gives students a broader outlook," he concludes. "They see more than just one way to do something. I see a future in raising cane, and that's why I'm involved." •••

**Above right, Jimmy Haney of the Clewiston, Florida, FFA chapter, watches a sugar can field burn in preparation for harvesting. Left, Mike Swindle cuts cane stalks by hand in a field that will not support heavy harvesting equipment.**

**Dairy farmer and former FFA member Jerry Tlucek performed his recording of "Future Farmers U.S.A." before an audience of 23,000 at the 58th National FFA Convention this past November.**

# A Song From the Heart

*By Bill Stagg*

JUST when you thought all the news coming from agriculture was gloom and doom, along comes something that will lift your spirits and remind you what it's all about. If that isn't enough, you can also sing along.

"Future Farmers U.S.A." is the name of a new song that is currently making the rounds in country music circles, and it comes as no surprise that it was a big hit with the 23,000 people who attended the recent national FFA convention in Kansas City. What does come as a surprise is the story behind the song.

The music is the brainchild of Jerry Tlucek, a dairy farmer from Melba, Idaho, and a former FFA member from the not-too-distant past.

After graduating from high school, Jerry went into dairying with not much more than a dream and a whole lot of nerve. Today, he has built an operation that is one of the largest in the state, milking some 840 cows in a 1,000 cow herd. His two sons, Kevin and Byron, two daughters, Angie and Serena, and his wife Mary Lou have helped him realize a dream that has filled the nights of more than one FFA member.

Jerry joined FFA as a freshman vo-ag student in the Nampa FFA Chapter. By the time he finished, he had earned his American Farmer degree and had served as president of the Idaho state association. Over the years he's been an ardent supporter of FFA. He watched proudly as both his sons earned their American Farmer degrees. Kevin served as state association treasurer and Byron was named regional Star Farmer at the last national convention.

When he was 12 years old, Jerry picked up a guitar and taught himself a few chords, even a few songs. After two more years of occasional play, he put the guitar down—for 34 years.

Three years ago he was experiencing pain from kidney stones and would get up at night to wander downstairs for diversion from the pain. Late in his office, he picked up his old guitar and began to strum, picking out some old melodies.

"Something told me," says Jerry, "why sing music that's been written? Why not try to write some music?"

And write, he did. Jerry has recorded three albums in Nashville since then, and performed at functions all over Idaho. "I would say that I write about the positive things in life," he says. "I love to sing about those things."

Jerry's themes revolve around the familiar bedrocks of country values: God, patriotism, family, friendships, and agriculture.

Jerry got the inspiration for "Future Farmers U.S.A." while attending Byron's state FFA convention. "You hear so much talk about what the future of this country is and how the kids are going to the dogs, and I just thought, 'Look at all these young people, the enthusiasm and the leadership,' and I thought that would be a great inspiration for a song. About a month later, I wrote the song."

Five days after he penned the tune, Jerry performed it for the local chapter banquet. It was an instant hit. Last November, at the national convention in Kansas City, it was again a hit, but this time with a new twist.

Jerry had produced a video for the song to illustrate in sight what he was trying to say in word and song. As he stood singing on stage, the 12 foot-high video screen above played out scenes of rural America blended evocatively with images drawn from vocational agriculture. The result was an experience that moved the entire convention audience to its feet for a thunderous ovation.

***TLUCEK: "I just wish that more people realized what youth organizations like this mean for the future of this country."***

"I just think that music is an excellent way to make us feel a little bit better about ourselves," explains Jerry. "Especially, these young people can say, 'Hey, there are some people out there in the country that care for us, that care for what we're doing and that can relate.'"

Jerry has since made the 3-minute video available for purchase by FFA chapters on a non-profit basis. The cost of the video or 16mm film—an excellent chapter banquet piece—barely covers production and shipping, but for Jerry it fulfills a greater purpose: "I think that FFA is still, in 1985, the greatest thing that has come by in secondary education," he says. "And I feel badly that there is a movement underfoot to take funds away because it's not helping a big enough segment of our society."

"But, if you take agriculture out of it completely," he continues, "just the Future Farmers organization alone is a great training ground for leaders in this country. And I believe that the majority, or the average student that gets involved in FFA is going to be a leader somewhere in adult life.

"I just wish that more people realized what youth organizations like this mean for the future of this country."

The thoughts come from the head. The song, as always, comes right from the heart.

*Future Farmers of America,*
*The dawning of a beautiful day.*
*Leaders of tomorrow,*
*For whatever may be coming our way.*
*Dreaming the impossible dream,*
*No matter what others may say.*
*What's the future of America?*
*Future Farmers U.S.A.* •••

# Movie Stars

The vocational agriculture and FFA program in Park City, Montana, can offer a formula to every chapter that is being faced with the possibility of near extinction or downward support from the community, school board and administration.

Our chapter in Park City was started in 1978. Since that time we have seen many programs eliminated from the many high schools, not only in Montana, but throughout the United States. Many schools have looked less favorably on a program that gives instruction in an area that is totally depressed or lacks validity.

**Members were taught how to react and were "made up" to give realism to the exercise.**

The formula our chapter has used is nothing new. It was one used in the '30s by our grandparents and one which will come back to serve our country once again. Yes, working together to better our industry or community. The vehicle upon which this philosophy of working together can be developed is none other than the BOAC program.

It has been our vehicle for helping get the necessary funding to run the program and aid in building a new addition to our present facilities. It has provided us with the best public relations tool we could hope to have.

The projects we have been involved in to benefit our school have been developing a sports complex including stripping and selling the sod off the grass track, developing a baseball diamond, concession stand, storage area, announcers' booth and ticket booth, along with the addition of a chain-linked fence around the complex.

We also made and installed 80 street signs for the community. A large project was picking up and selling 32,000 railroad ties from 47 miles of track, which grossed over $110,000 to help build the new shop addition.

In addition, we applied for and received a $24,000 grant to help install a solar system in the new addition.

Recently we put on a make-believe disaster drill. It involved the cohesive work of three communities, ambulance, fire department and law enforcement personnel to respond to the vo-ag building for a make-believe oxy-acytelene tank explosion, killing and injuring 22 students.

This exercise was filmed in part to be shown as a new National FFA BOAC film "Changes, Choices, Challenges" sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Industries. It will be available in early spring from Venard Films.

The chapter also assists the senior citizens by serving their Wednesday dinners, cleaning lawns and helping with odd jobs around their homes and the senior citizen hall.

The support the vo-ag and FFA program has had is tremendous. The citizens, school board and administration look at the vo-ag program in a positive perspective, one which gives it some real validity to our community.

So to each program that is having difficulty, is struggling to find a purpose, to stay alive at a time agriculture in general is being revolutionized—use the BOAC program to gain the community support that is necessary to build a strong program and more importantly, use it in a way that will help the agricultural community in your area at a time of real need. *(Tim Schiff, Advisor and Dennis Belgae, member)* •••


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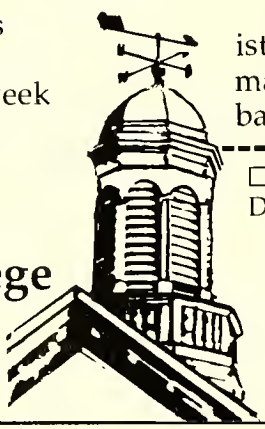

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# Beeping in the Poachers

**Illegal hunting of endangered animals threatens many species with extinction. Biotelemetry is now evening the odds.**

*By Ferris Weddle*

THE man who shot and buried the bald eagle in southeastern Oregon's Snake River country left a surprising clue for state and federal wildlife agents. He didn't see and remove the tiny radio transmitter attached to the bird as a part of a migration study of eagles.

Researchers knew something was wrong when beeping sounds kept coming from a stationary position. Had the eagle lost the transmitter? Or was the bird injured or dead? The signal led an agent to the burial site. Eventually an area rancher confessed to the killing and was fined for violating both state and federal laws.

**A tranquilized bighorn sheep is crated for a trip from eastern Idaho to the Hell's Canyon area of Oregon. The animal wears a radio collar so that its movements can be monitored.**

This incident is only one of a growing number where biotelemetry, the radio monitoring of animals, has brought unexpected results.

### Electronic Game Tracking

Attaching monitoring devices to animals is old stuff in wildlife research today with increasingly sophisticated devices ranging in size from a few grams to several pounds. They are being used on an incredible variety of species—fish, mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. Researchers amass a staggering amount of information that could not be obtained through any other method.

Catching violators through electronic bugging is a relatively minor, sometimes amusing, by-product. One thing is for sure, violators never know these days which creature may be bugged.

In a southern Idaho case, two furbearer poachers found out the hard way. A number of river otters had been radio equipped, and on this particular day, the researcher was monitoring the movements of a female otter. A problem was suspected when she began moving more rapidly than normal.

Guided by the signals, the researcher spotted two men in the distance. As he approached, one of the men tossed something into a bush clump. The telltale beeps led the researcher to the dead otter—and to a day in court for the poachers.

### Protecting Endangered Species

Although grizzly bears in the lower states are on both federal and state threatened species lists, the mountain caribou of northern Idaho and northeastern Washington are critically endangered. Possibly 20 to 30 animals remain, migrating between southern British Columbia and the two states. Intensive studies of the rare mammals have been in progress for more than a decade. Several caribou have been radio collared.

Even the loss of one caribou is a blow against survival of the unique animals, and in the past decade or so, at least six caribou are known to have been illegally killed. The poachers have fewer opportunities with year-round monitoring of radio-equipped animals. Nevertheless, in 1983, two caribou, one with a transmitter, the other unmarked, were killed. In time, due to loss of radio contact, two British Columbia residents were apprehended.

With the advent of sophisticated tracking technology, the detection of poachers has been measurably enhanced. Coupled with strict enforcement of federal and state laws, the risks of hunting endangered species can now be made high enough to discourage, if not halt, this thoughtless practice. Let poachers beware: the game may be bugged! •••


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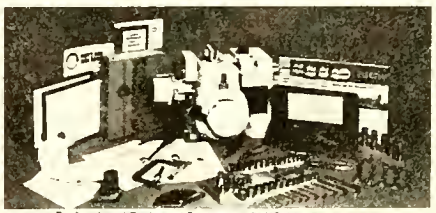

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# Highlights of 1985

**1985 will be remembered as a busy year for FFA. It will also be remembered as the year the national organization took up the monumental task of reassessing its role in contemporary agricultural education.**

LIKE most patterns of change, this past year for FFA contained elements that seemed to contradict one another.

Reports of vo-ag program cutbacks and declining FFA membership stood in sharp relief to the opening of the new Chicago School for Agricultural Sciences and the chartering of the District of Columbia State FFA Association. A national strategic planning process was taking a hard look at program operations in light of declining membership and dues revenues—even as the national FFA Foundation was chalking up yet another record year of fund-raising. All of this despite of one of the toughest economic years for the agriculture industry.

If these events seemed a little confusing, one thing was made perfectly clear: FFA was pursuing the fast track to ensure that the career growth areas of tomorrow were incorporated into the FFA programs of today. Services and programs were developed to address the needs of students in the fields of computers, agribusiness, agri-science and communications. New proficiency and contest programs in crops and forestry were inaugurated to accommodate an increasingly diversified FFA membership.

Among all of the events during the past year, a handful emerge as milestones for the organization. Presented here are the selected highlights of 1985, a year in motion for FFA.

## First Vo-Ag Teacher Joins FFA Board

The U.S. Department of Education named Jerry Paxton, vo-ag teacher from Encampment, Wyoming, to serve as one of its representatives on the National FFA Board of Directors.

Paxton's two-year appointment, and subsequent appointments likely to follow, will ensure that the views and concerns of the vocational agriculture teaching profession are represented at the highest level of decision-making in FFA.

## The National Academy of Sciences Study

A national study to dispell the myths and substantiate the truths about the vocational agriculture system was initiated by the National Council on Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture and by a joint request from former Secretary of Education Terrell Bell and Secretary of Agriculture John Block.

The study is being conducted by the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. At a estimated cost of $300,000 and spanning 16 months, a committee of 15 experts drawn from the fields of education and agriculture will hold meetings and hearings in a number of states. It will represent the most comprehensive examination of vocational agriculture ever undertaken and is expected to have broad impact on vo-ag programs around the country.

## District of Columbia State Association Chartered

The chartering of a new state association is a rare occasion. This past year, the District of Columbia met all requirements for forming an association and received its charter during ceremonies at the 58th National FFA Convention.

With 5 chapters and 129 members, the District's association reflects the growing trend in urban agriculture. Horticulture and floriculture are the major project areas of its chapters and the Phelps Career Center is the District's largest FFA Chapter.

## The Chicago School for Agricultural Sciences

Increasing career opportunities in agribusiness and agri-science have caused a realignment of priorities in many vo-ag curriculums. On August 16, the city of Chicago underscored this trend as it dedicated the Chicago School for Agricultural Sciences.

Located on what was known as Chicago's "Last Farm," the school sits on a 72-acre plot with land set aside for fruit and vegetable production, a nursery, a livestock facility and a greenhouse. Students from urban backgrounds are drawn to the school for high-skill, high-tech agricultural training.

## ACCESS Computer Service

To enhance the efforts of local vo-ag departments to cope with the bewildering amount of software applications being developed for agriculture, FFA launched the Agricultural Computer Connection & Educational Software Service (ACCESS).

ACCESS is a subscription service offering discounted software and hardware, program reviews, a newsletter and invaluable advice for instructors making critical software decisions for their programs. Its impact on vocational agriculture and FFA programs will be apparent as more departments acquire computers and learn to utilize them to the fullest in the ag classroom.

## Strategic Planning Process Begun

Responding to a recommendation adopted by the FFA Board of Directors in 1984, the national FFA organization last year began a long-range planning process that would cover a period of five years.

Involving all 19 national staff members in joint and committee sessions, the strategic planning process sought to reexamine and define the mission, purposes and objectives of the national organization.

Currently, action steps are being developed to implement the purposes and objectives as approved by the board of directors. Conceived as an on-going activity, the planning process will have far-reaching effects on all national programs and activities.

## A National TV Special

The shifting climate for vocational agriculture programs and FFA chapters was examined in a half-hour presentation prepared for national television. "Agriculture's Next Generation: A CONFLICT OF INTEREST" was aired in March and was seen by some 5 million Americans across the country. It focused attention on issues that have led American agriculture—and, hence, vocational agriculture—into a state of economic jeopardy.

The TV special appeared in 124 television markets across the country. Many chapters recorded the program off the air, resulting in an estimated 2,000 additional screenings.

## Record Year for the National FFA Foundation

In one of the most difficult economic years for the industry of agriculture, the National FFA Foundation succeeded in raising a staggering $2.3 million in its record-breaking campaign for 1985.

Led by Chairman Carl F. Gerhardt, senior vice president of Alpha-Laval Inc., AgriGroup, the Sponsors Advisory Board members called on all sectors of the industry to fund incentive awards, leadership and citizenship activities, international travel and a host of other activities for FFA members.

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# Space-Age Cowboy

**Roping and riding on a California ranch while the space shuttle flies over head provides a unique blending of the Old West and the Space Age.**

*By Tim O'Leary*

*Photo By Nick Galante*

**Steve Lundberg, 17, employs expert skills of roping and riding while working on Cojo, a 28,000-acre ranch on the California coastline managed by his father.**

You need leadership and long legs to run a ranch that stretches 28,000 acres along prime California coastline. Steve Lundberg gets his long legs from his dad. His leadership skills come courtesy of the FFA.

His many talents helped him become president of the Lompoc High School FFA Chapter. Numerous livestock projects put money in his pocket and experience under his belt.

"There's *always* something to do on a ranch," declares Lundberg.

Cojo Ranch fuses California tradition and legend. Lundberg's role on the ranch (one of California's remaining vestiges of the Spanish land grants) is an important one. Steve, 17, is in charge whenever his father, Brad, is off the ranch. Brad has been Cojo's manager since 1974 when he traded the challenges of firefighting for range riding.

Located about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles, Cojo curls around California's protruding elbow and offers unique California contrasts. It is about eight miles south of Jalama Beach Park, one of the recreational jewels of Santa Barbara County. Jalama is a local surfing hot spot, but Steve ignores rips and curls. Ranching is his business.

***Steve: "I know all the cowboy stuff by now, or most of it anyway. Now I need to know the business stuff."***

"I've liked it since I moved here. At this point I'm getting kind of good at it," he says. While he learned most of his agricultural knowledge on the job, FFA taught him discipline, responsibility and good business sense.

Steve already has plenty of horse sense. He knows how to pick a colt, cut a calf, ride a bronc and work the range like the cowboys of generations past.

He has been roping since he was six years old and has established himself as one of the state's leading saddle bronc riders. Steve finished fourth in the state finals and is shooting for the nationals this year.

Admittedly, he is after his father's job. Steve calls his father the "best cowboy I know." Besides being a good cowboy, Mr. Lundberg is also a good manager. The importance of these skills was stressed in Steve's FFA training. Hard work has earned Steve money, recognition and his State Farmer degree.

College will complement crafts learned in FFA. Lundberg is planning to attend California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

"I know all the cowboy stuff by now, or most of it anyway," declares Steve. "Now I need to know the business stuff. I've learned a lot through FFA, but I need more of it."

**Ranching with the Space Shuttle**

FFA has been in Steve's blood even before his brother Brent won grand champion market beef honors at the 1981 county fair. Steve's duties as chapter president now offer a formidable challenge: how to keep kids "down on the farm" when the farm is located in the shadow of the space shuttle.

Today's Cojo cowboys live a curious blend of the Old West and the Space

*(Continued on Page 39)*

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# The Farmer's Feathered Ally

*By Samuel Skeen*

"Why stationed by the owl?" asks the vice president.

"The owl is a time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom," answers the advisor.

As an FFA member, you have heard these statements many times. You also know the owl is an integral component of the emblem as it perches on the plow against the backdrop of a new day dawning. Some people might argue the owl is actually out of place on the emblem since the bird is not related to agriculture. But that belief is a misconception. The owl is directly related to crop production because it is one of the most effective means of rodent control ever devised by Mother Nature. Any bird that kills 25,000 rats and mice per year deserves the respect of anyone associated with agriculture.

The owl depicted in the FFA emblem is the great horned owl—the mightiest of all the night-hunting birds of prey. Although it is now recognized as an agricultural asset, the "flying tiger" hasn't always enjoyed the respect of the man who lives by the soil. Early farmers considered the owl "vermin" to be shot on sight because, on occasion, it would prey on roosting poultry. But this predation was actually the result of the farmer's carelessness in approved practices. When the chickens were housed during the night, the losses ceased.

Hunters also hated the great horned owl because they thought it was a decimator of small game populations. This, too, was a misconception. Unknowingly, the owl helped prove it was innocent of the many accusations made against it.

Owls swallow most of their prey whole. Any item that will not go down in one gulp will be torn into chunks and swallowed. Since the bird is incapable of digesting such things as hair, feathers and bones, this matter is churned into a mass by the stomach. This wad, or pellet, is later coughed up by the bird. By examining the content of these pellets, naturalists and biologists can determine what the "flying tiger" has eaten. In examination after examination, it was found that rodents were the owl's main bill of fare. These destructive, gnawing, crop destroying pests often make up 90 percent of the owl's diet.

The great horned owl also benefits agriculture by preying on a bird that plagues the grain farmer—the crow. The two birds are arch enemies. When the brainy black bird finds an owl during the day, it summons its brethren to harass the predator. Cawing and squawking, the crows "dive bomb" the owl to drive it away. But when darkness comes, the crow has no defense against the night's master hunter. When the owl finds a roosting crow, it plucks the sable bird from its perch, crushes its skull with powerful talons and eats the crow's brain.

The presence of the owl in crow territory is often enough to disrupt the corn thief's nesting activity. Two biologists, Frank and John Craighead, have studied the owl and its habits. They make the following statement: "So great was the effect of the horned owl's presence on nesting crows that they ranked as a major factor in limiting crow productivity. Adult crows, as well as young, were killed and eaten on the nest at night. Some crows built nests, but appeared to be so affected by the owl's presence that they did not lay." The brothers conclude, as will most grain farmers, that "The owl's value in regulating the crow population cannot be overlooked when weighing its desirability in any community."

In addition to the flying tiger, two other owls serve the farmer; the barn owl and screech owl. These birds are more common around the farmstead than their forest dwelling great horned cousin.

Barn owls, as the name implies, often nest in barns, old buildings, church towers and even silos. This owl is a long-legged, light-colored bird with a white, heart-shaped face, sometimes called the "monkey-faced owl."

Farmers have long recognized the barn owl as a rodent killer but few realize just how great a "mouser" it really is. When ornithologists at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., examined 200 pellets from a pair of barn owls living in the tower of that building, they found the skulls of 225 meadow mice, 179 house mice, 20 rats and 20 shrews. And these were city owls. Consider what a pair of their country cousins could do to control the rodent population. It should come as no surprise that some farmers will build and erect nesting boxes in hopes of attracting this "flying mousetrap."

The screech owl does its part in keeping the farm pest-free. This half-pound, 10-inch-high bird of prey likes mice. Large insects, such as grasshoppers and moths, are also part of its diet, as well as smaller beetles.

A great deal of misunderstanding and superstition has always surrounded the members of the owl clan. But science has proven these night hunters are not destructive birds; they are agricultural assets that should be left unmolested and protected. As your FFA advisor might say, "This advice is based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom." •••

*"Oh, yeah? Well, that's your opinion."*

# Lundberg

*(Continued from Page 36)*

Age. Cojo is located adjacent to Vandenberg Air Force Base which will host west coast launches of the space shuttle beginning in the spring of 1986.

**The Winds of Change**

Times have changed since Brad took up Cojo's reins in 1974. The ranch's crew dropped from 16 full-time cowboys down to four.

Offshore oil development provides a different challenge. Pipelines and a supply base are proposed for Cojo's shores.

Cojo's lands are also leased to farmers raising beans and keeping bees. Dairy operations on the ranch were discontinued years ago.

The past few years have been especially dry, but water worries are not new on California's central coast. "If we don't get rain this winter, we're in bad shape. We're in tough shape right now," says Steve. "I don't want to think about what will happen without rain. I think a lot of little ranchers will go out (of business) quickly."

**Working the Range**

Cojo's three annual calf roundup and branding drives are a major part of ranch operations. Steve's roping and throwing skills earn him praise from the older cowboys.

About 160 calves go through the branding, castration and vaccination process in a single day. More than 700 calves face the ritual each year.

"I've lost count of how many (brandings) I've been to. It used to be fun, now it's work," says Steve. His other ranch chores include feeding livestock and horses and various cattle-related duties.

**FFA Plays a Major Role**

"Barney," Steve's 1,200-pound pet bull, is the featured attraction of all Lompoc High School FFA petting farm exhibits. The petting farm is an important part of annual FFA Week activities. "It's Barney's big trip to town," laughs Steve.

FFA Week will receive heavy emphasis under Steve's presidency. He was elected to serve as chapter president his senior year and was vice president last year.

Business skills; leadership and responsibility learned through FFA will serve him well, he says. And yes, despite living in the shadow of the space shuttle, FFA is alive and well in the Lompoc Valley.

"FFA teaches responsibility," stresses Steve. "It's fine and dandy to learn algebra and history, but there's something for everybody in FFA. It might be with livestock or mechanics or tying knots.

"You use it a lot when you get out of school," he adds. "That's the big reason, plus fun. FFA is *more* than just raising sheep." •••


**DID YOU KNOW . . .**

. .there are a lot of good reasons to belong to the North American Limousin Junior Association (NALJA). Currently over 2,000 Limousin juniors from across the nation are taking advantage of the many youth-oriented programs sponsored by this organization, including low member rates for registration; scholarships; field day sponsorship; and participation in the National Junior Heifer Show, just to name a few.

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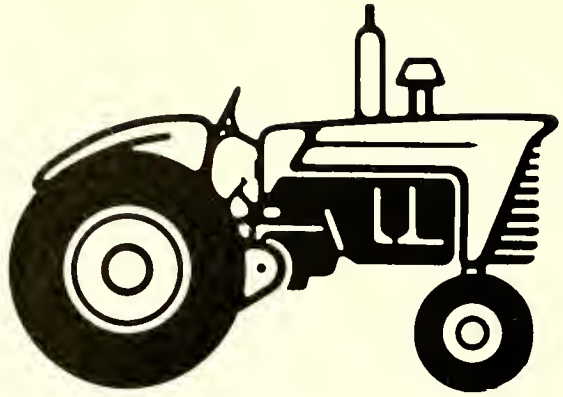

# Your Part in the Great Tractor Round-up

*By Jack Pitzer*

**Each member can make an impact on tractor safety at home, in the community, in the nation**

EVERY now and then there comes along a chance in a lifetime for each of us—an adventure, an opportunity, a choice. Here's one for you.

Coming up in the spring of '86, every FFA member will be able to join a round-up crew to hunt out every tractor and "brand'em to save a life" with a safety decal.

There are four-and-a-half million tractors on farms throughout the nation. There are about 435,000 FFA members in the nation. Using your best math to divide, it will come to you that each FFA member only has to "round-up" ten or eleven tractors.

One reason this new thrust for farm safety has been organized by FFA is to get at a special problem. Of those 4.5 million tractors, 2.5 million were built before 1970 and therefore do not have rollover protection structures, (ROPS) and can't have them added because of engineering problems.

Tractor users can substitute their own caution and good judgement in the absence of these protective devices but past experience shows between 500 and 600 times a year a tractor operator, because of haste or fatigue or carelessness will let down the guard and lose a life.

Manufacturers have continued to change, add and modify for safety reasons. But now International Harvester Co. and JI Case have enlisted the National FFA Organization to spread the country with a program to brand every tractor with a decal—a large red heart which carries a reminder to the operator that he or she is the best safety device available for operation of a tractor. The decal suggests, "Please Be Careful. We Love You." Signed—"Your Family."

In February your chapter will be sent a kit to help organize the round-up in your area. It will have information, guidelines and a supply of the decals.

Ask your advisor for the word when it arrives. Tell him you don't want to miss this chance of a lifetime to do something important for yourself and for someone else.

When they do arrive, you and your fellow members can organize to make a big push to find every tractor in your area. Researchers indicate tractor numbers seem to be related to farm population numbers, so don't stop until you've branded ten tractors yourself.

There will be recognition for chapters who get into this round-up and make it a part of their safety program for the year—certificates for chapters who send in report forms, and extra honors for chapters with 100% member participation.

Certainly one suggestion for widespread participation is to consider doing the tractor round-up in conjunction with every FFA activity. Have every chapter committee think tractor round-up. Take some decals when you go out to practice judging or do chapter SOEP visits.

If one of the members works a placement position with a farm implement dealer, have that member be sure every tractor that leaves the shop—old or new—has a decal.

This tractor branding project can also be a part of every chapter's yearly National FFA Safety Award Program sponsored by Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute and Dow Chemical USA.

The National Safety Council estimates that of the 500 or 600 tractor fatalities each year, rollovers account for half, runovers account for one out of five. Unguarded power take-off entanglements account for one out of every 25 tractor fatalities. Most of the tractor accidents occur on older tractor models.

Proper maintenance and proper operation of tractors could prevent many of the accidents. And ROPS and wearing of safety belts could prevent serious injury in most of the accidents that do happen. The decal you will use in the FFA branding drive can help with those operators who forget to be careful and get complacent with operation of their tractor.

You can be the person to kick off the branding drive in your chapter or community. The life you save.... •••

**Here's what the new safety decal will look like. The heart is printed in bright red.**

# FFA in Action

**Class members organized the event and assumed the roles of the nativity scene for their enactment in a barn near their community. The only directions to the scene was a bright light over the barn.**

## The Christmas Story Come To Life

On December, 22, 1984, Amery, Wisconsin, had its own manger scene. This one was presented by the freshman agriculture class.

The occasion was made realistic and more complete by not giving specific directions to the stable. People came from miles around guided to the stable by a star shining over a barn somewhere in the countryside near the city of Amery.

The original idea of the living nativity scene came from the class members. The immediate response was one of, where do we have the scene, and more importantly, how can we do something like this when it might be zero degrees in an empty barn? A committee was formed to explore the possibilities and the plan was adopted. Various class members formed work groups and began preparing the necessary props and costumes needed to carry out the activity.

Soft Christmas background music, aromatic pine bows and the sweet smell of fresh wood shavings helped to make the scene realistic. A full complement of nativity scene animals were on hand including a donkey, several sheep and a cooperative cow.

The class agreed that there was something very neat and special about watching young and old alike walk into a decorated stable with the thought of sharing what the Wise Men might have experienced so many years ago in the little town of Bethlehem. *(Amery FFA Members)* •••

## On Tour

Building Our American Communities was the highlight of the Jackson Heights, Kansas, FFA fall program of activities. The chapter organized a fall field day and BOAC tour of the newly developed Jackson Heights FFA conservation and demonstration farm on October 2.

The chapter started work on the project last September, enlisting the services of the county soil conservation service, extension service and farmer cooperative as well as local contractors, implement dealers and the Kansas Fish and Game Commission.

They built a 40-foot by 70-foot demonstration building, planted 600 trees, made a conservation plan, built a waterway and seeded it with native grass, planted a demonstration milo plot and planned a wildlife management seminar for spring.

The BOAC tour of the farm was conducted by chapter members and the cooperating agencies in the BOAC project. Following the tour the 400 guests enjoyed a crops show, seed dealer presentations, a harvesting safety program and a pork barbeque served by the FFA Alumni.

Publicity is a large and vital part of the BOAC program and so coverage by the 6 p.m. news crew of WIBW television from Topeka on a chapter's accomplishments was helpful. The Topeka *Daily Capital* also did a story on the chapter's BOAC program and the progress of the Jackson Heights FFA chapter after only three years of existence.

Building Our American Communities is community development and the Jackson Heights members have made Holton, Kansas, a better place to live. *(Joe McAllister, Reporter)* •••

## Collegiate Pigskin Sale

More than 400 buyers were on hand for a first-ever Oklahoma State University Collegiate FFA Pig Sale, held at the county fairgrounds. The sale grossed more than $15,000 with proceeds to be used for scholarships and other activities of the organization.

Dr. James White, education faculty member and collegiate FFA advisor, said the 100 pigs sold were some of the better pigs in the state. "We had 49 collegiate FFA members working at the sale. The breeders didn't have to do much. The students unloaded, washed and cleaned the hogs."

Many of the buyers were former OSU students and seemed to think it was a good sale because there were breeders from across the state and there were some pretty good pigs.

The grand champion pig, a Duroc owned by George and Judy Phillips of Geronimo, sold for $950. The Joe Teel Spot Farm at Wayne provided the trophy for the grand champion barrow.

The students have decided to make the sale an annual event and have set the date for next year. •••

## Feed Store Classroom

A new era in cooperation between the education community and the business world was demonstrated when Amphitheatre, Arizona, High School vo-ag students opened a store to the public at 450 East Wetmore Road in Tucson.

The new store in its own building is called Country Store and is located one-half block west of North First Avenue at Amphi's Land Lab, on the south side of the street.

The student-operated retail center will be a cooperative venture entered into by the school district's vocational education program and Arizona Feeds, a longtime Tucson-based animal feeds manufacturer and retailer with stores and dealers throughout the state. The new store is to become an innovative exercise in education and business.

Students will operate the store under instruction of program advisor Jose Bernal and the agribusiness faculty. Linda Spicer, Arizona Feeds' retail store manager, will supervise the instore operations. Students will receive lab credit for work-study involvement and will be employed during non-school hours, weekends and vacation periods as well.

The new Country Store will offer

*(Continued on Page 42)*

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# FFA in Action

*(Pick up the ACTION from Page 41)*

livestock feed and supplies, pet food and supplies (including bulk feed for birds and small pets), saddles and tack, vet supplies and hardware. In addition, there will be a plant nursery where potted plants, flowers and garden supplies will be marketed. Some of the plants to be sold will have been raised by horticulture students in a related program undertaken in cooperation with Greenworld Nurseries, also located at the land lab facilities. •••

## Fall Flooding

In October and November severe flooding occurred in West Virginia. Many local FFA chapters have embarked on various efforts to help those that were hit hardest with the flood waters. Many joined existing relief efforts like adopt a school, church or volunteer fire department.

In mid-November Mason County, West Virginia, FFA proposed to their state advisor's office an idea to complement efforts that are already underway. The idea involves a coordinated effort in each of the six vo-ag FFA districts to assist in providing relief to the farming sector.

Mason County's concern was to get immediate relief to the farming areas for hay, grain, tools, fencing, lumber and portable equipment.

The state advisor's office used the Ag Ed Network to solicit an inventory of needed materials in the FFA districts. After those needs are in, the job of matching supplies with needs can begin.

Vo-ag teachers volunteered to coordinate the tally work for their districts. Advisors are using a statewide Network and tie into the Ag Ed Network to communicate needs and collected items. Out of state chapters could contact Mr. Don Michael, state supervisor, at Stargram address FF322A for more information or to offer help. •••

## Make Your Own

If you grew up on the land it is almost a sure bet that you prefer to live and think in tune with nature. The memories of fluttering grouse or the barking call of Canada geese overhead stand out even in the midst of city rumble.

Many people are drawn away from the country in need of a paycheck. Often the craving to live on a patch of thicket alongside still water remains an ever-occurring dream.

In the gunsmithing classes of Pine Technical Institute, Pine City, Minnesota, students keep in touch with their heritage. Hunting and competition shooting are a major part of their educational process and they build themselves a fine gun to do it with.

Bruce Yliniemi of Frazee, Minnesota, took the two-year course in gunsmithing at Pine Tech and graduated in May of 1985. He had been an FFA member since high school.

"I grew up with guns and hunting," Bruce says. "I like to work with my hands." This is certainly evident in the smooth and precise lines of his classic rifle stock. "I hope to build at least two rifles for myself. The work I put into these guns will show future customers what I can do."

There are an average of 60 students enrolled in Pine Tech's gunsmithing program. *(Emma Achleithner)* •••

## Chain Litter

**Lonnie Schindley, left, and John Wilson, right, recently received gilt pigs from the Bellevue, Ohio, chapter gilt chain for FFA SOE projects. They each received a gilt from Stacey Heal, center, who had received a gilt pig last year, had it bred and then gave two of the piglets to John and Lonnie.**

**The gilt chain started in 1982 when the chapter's livestock judging team won a gilt as a prize.**

## A Pro Invitational

The eighth annual parliamentary law contest was again held in Carthage, Missouri, November 12 and 13, 1985, and proved to be extremely successful.

State winning teams attending this year were from Springfield, Ohio; Frankfort, Indiana; Camden, Delaware; Tucson, Arizona; Blountstown, Florida; Spangle, Washington; Stockton, Missouri; Nephi, Utah; Cleveland, Tennessee; Staunton, Virginia; Clay Center, Kansas; Emerson, Nebraska; and Kingswood, West Virginia.

The 1985 contest winners were: gold—first, Stockton, Missouri; second, Liberty, Washington; third, Blountstown, Florida; fourth, Emerson, Nebraska; silver—Kansas, West Virginia, Utah, Tennessee; bronze—Ohio, Delaware, Virginia and Arizona.

The contest is run by the Carthage FFA and Alumni. It has grown in popularity each year. Members of teams

## Chop, Chop

**The New Glarus, Wisconsin, FFA entered a float in the homecoming parade. The theme of the float was "We'll chop 'em up and blow 'em away." We fed Pecotonica Vikings (made of styrofoam) into the chopper and it, in turn, chopped them up. Our float was an exciting action-packed float with the noise of the tractor and chopper working. We won second place.** *(Mike Marean, Reporter)* •••

take written tests and demonstrate their ability. They stay in homes of Carthage members. •••

## Beef Salesmen

The Oklahoma Beef Commission announced recently a contribution of $200 to the Alex, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter for the development of an effective Food For America program.

The Alex Food For America program will emphasize the promotion of beef to the local school and community according to chapter President Shawn Sparks.

Chapters qualifying for the grants met criteria set up by the Oklahoma Beef Commission. The reviewing committee looked for chapters whose projects would promote beef, be available to a large percentage of the community, receive wide community support and involvement, show high visibility to the community and be innovative in nature.

The Oklahoma Beef Commission will also award $500 to the first place program, $400 to the second place and $300 to the third place program in the state Food For America program at the 1986 state convention in April. *(Tom Strickland, Advisor)* •••

## Early Winter Olympics

The Smithville, Ohio, FFA recently hosted a barnyard olympics competition against the Orrville FFA at Stoll Farms.

The sack race was won by Mike Beery and Dwaine Beery of Smithville.

The raw egg eating contest was taken by Jason Poling of Orrville.

In the bale toss, first went to Greg First from Smithville.

The obstacle course was won by Orrville as was milk guzzling and egg toss.

Bale stacking was tied at first by three Smithville teams.

This is the fourth year these two chapters have held this event. The final score was Smithville 68, Orrville 49. *(Mindy Dodd, Reporter)* •••

## Safety Takes the Prize

Farming has become the most dangerous occupation in the United States in terms of on-the-job accidents. And of all farm accidents, nearly two out of three involve tractors, according to an Illinois survey. To reinforce the importance of tractor safety, ten FFA chapters in east-central Illinois have been sponsoring a Safe Tractor Operation contest.

The competition operates on the FFA principle of learning by doing. Members learn maintenance and driving safety in the four part contest, which involves not only a written examination and a stationary tractor safety check, but also two driving courses.

Each chapter brings a team of three members. Contestants get points added to their scores for mistakes, so the winner is the one with lowest total.

The first part of the contest is the written examination with 25 multiple-choice questions dealing with tractor mechanics, necessary precautions for operating machinery in all kinds of weather and how to identify unsafe equipment.

The other three parts of the contest

*(Continued on Page 44)*

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(Pick up the ACTION from Page 43)

are "hands-on" activities. Members must carefully examine a tractor on which safety hazards have been "planted." They then record all the faults they have been able to find. Loose wires, missing safety shields and faulty mechanical parts are the most important items to look for, according to Allen Hornbrook, FFA advisor at Paris and annual host of the contest.

The most popular events are the two-wheeled cart and four-wheeled wagon pulling and backing tests.

In one event, contestants have six minutes to maneuver a tractor pulling a two-wheeled wagon through a series of stakes that allow clearance of only three inches on each side. They must then complete a series of turns and backing exercises. Points add up for each stake that the tractor or wagon touches, for stakes the driver fails to pass through before time is called, and for any unsafe practices the driver uses.

The other test of operating skills challenges members to pull a four-wheeled wagon out of a staked-out shed and back it into an adjoining shed within six minutes.

The contest has made safety something members want to learn and teachers want to teach. *(Ann Hastings)* •••

## Tractor Trauma Technique

A local branch of the California Farm Bureau held a tractor demonstration for the Las Plumas, California, FFA members at the high school. The students watched a video presentation on tractor accident prevention with a summary given by a member of the Las Plumas FFA.

Students were also shown a tractor roll-over demonstration in which one of the FFA members took the part of a severely injured operator while another student reacted using both the right and the wrong techniques to handle such a situation.

A local fire department also showed how prompt medical attention would be given to a victim of such a farm accident. And a local ambulance service showed how rapid evacuation could be crucial.

Approximately 125 students took part in the demonstraion. *(James Richardson, Reporter)* •••

## At Home on the Range

The Scottsboro, Alabama, FFA chapter teamed with the local ROTC group to demonstrate gun safety. Scottsboro has placed in the state and national ratings in chapter safety for the past decade. This demonstration is an integral part of the hunter's safety course instructed by both the FFA and ROTC.

The event took place at Goosepond shooting range on November 7. The local news media attended the entire demonstration.

Many different caliber guns were fired: .22 rotary fire, 30/30 with fixed power scope, a 1903—30.06, .22 short Derringer, 20 gauge shotgun and 3-inch magnum.

The first demonstration was the firing of the 3-inch magnum at a head of cabbage. A .444 was used to puncture a gallon jug filled with water and red food color.

On the day before they went to the range, the chapter hosted a meeting with a speaker from the State Conservation Department of Game and Fish. This lecture program helped members know, in great detail, safety habits and regulations they should follow when hunting. *(John Knight, Reporter)* •••

## FFA Goes to Tech

The Agriculture Education Society at Virginia Tech held their fifth annual FFA Leadership Conference in Blacksburg, Virginia, in September. Conference attendance has nearly doubled since the beginning. This year's was the largest and most successful yet with over 650 FFA members and guests participating.

The conference featured National FFA President Steve Meredith, who taught a session entitled "Broadening Your Horizons."

Twelve other classes were also offered to FFA members. These sessions were taught by Agricultural Education Society members assisted by the Virginia State FFA Officers. Subjects ranged from proper etiquette, FFA history and public relations to opportunities for the non-farmer in agriculture and the FFA. Members of the Agricultural Education Society also got a taste of teaching students while the FFA members sharpened their leadership skills.

Certificates were presented to chapters who have attended all five conferences.

Entertainment was provided by the Virginia Tech cheerleaders and mascot as well as a bluegrass group.

After the conference, FFA members had the option to see Virginia Tech play Syracuse in football or tour the College of Agriculure and Life Sciences. *(Kim Lineburg, Publicity Chairman)* •••

## Selling Success

Dave Hansen and Jon Booker of Wenatchee, Washington, dream of owning an 180-acre farm to supply the wheat, corn and barley needed for their award-winning pigs as well as for their retail grain business.

Hansen, 19, and Booker, 15, own a grain and hog business that will gross $40,000 this year. Although the money doesn't reflect great financial success, it does reflect a bold beginning for two ambitious teenagers.

"We're going all out," asserts Dave, who is full of infectious enthusiasm.

The two stepbrothers have operated D&J Grain Sales in Malaga for two-and-a-half years.

Living among farm animals all their lives, says Dave, he and Jon would buy five or six market hogs to show at the Chelan County Fair.

But instead of purchasing commercial grain for the hogs, Dave made his own mixture. And the weaners grew.

They grew so big and plump that other 4-H students and teen-agers from Future Farmers of America wondered about those pigs.

No problem, Dave, a member of FFA himself, sold his extra pigs to those curious 4-H members. And when the enlarged pigs started winning prizes at the fair, the students wondered what their pigs ate.

Don't worry, Dave assured them, just buy this mixture of wheat, corn, barley and a bunch of other nutritious stuff, and those pigs will do fine.

"The students were happy with it," he recalls. "From March through September, they continued buying it. It was cheaper than other grain companies and it was good quality."

As the demand grew, Dave and Jon took a loan out to purchase a 3,000-bushel capacity grain bin. They needed it to store fresh corn, wheat and barley for mixing.

Now, two silver grain bins stand on the modest hill at their parents' small farm. The bins can hold nine tons of grain. Next to the bins is a big shop where the refined grain mixtures are stored. Behind the shop is the farrowing barn and pens to hold their 55 pigs, some of them prize-winning Durocs.

In addition to the grain bins, the brothers took out another loan in 1984 and bought themselves a grinder/mixer.

"We mix everything here," Dave explains. "We do all the labor, grinding and filling."

The immediate goal is to pay off the loans for the grinder/mixer and take out another loan to open a retail outlet closer to Wenatchee. Currently, they sell the feed from their shed.

He says his customers come from as far as Omak for the grain and the hogs. They sell between 100-130 hogs a year. About 45 of those are butcher hogs.

"Out of the top 14 market hogs at the county fair this year, we had eight.

"It's really exciting the way the whole

thing has grown," says Dave, who adds that living at home has helped them economically and emotionally.

To improve accounting and management skills, Dave attends Wenatchee Valley College in the mornings. Jon still attends Wenatchee High School and takes advanced mechanics and agriculture courses.

Dave earned the State Farmer degree and Jon was Star Greenhand last year. *(By Stanley Holmes from* The Wenatchee World *and submitted by Erin Gahringer, Chapter Reporter.)* •••

## Tree Toppers

September 24 was a great day for the Luray, Virginia, Chapter. Seven members of the chapter's forestry field team traveled to the state fair and took top honors in the state FFA Forestry Field Day. After competing with 28 schools from all over Virginia in five different contests in over two hours of competition, the Luray Chapter was awarded the state championship with a state plaque and a brand new Stihl chainsaw.

The team competed in events of log throwing, log rolling, crosscut and bow sawing and Indian water pump accuracy.

William Viands was the team member responsible for competing in the Indian water pump accuracy, an event where the contestant must squirt water into a can placed 15 feet in front of him 4 feet above the ground.

Tim Miller competed in the bow saw competition and had to cut a 10-inch log using a bow saw with the shortest time.

Using a freshly sharpened saw, Joe Ruffner and Chris Adams competed in the crosscut saw competition, an event that requires two persons to cut a log using a crosscut saw. The log used for competition was 10 inches in diameter.

The last individuals to compete on the Luray team were Eric Beahm and Bruce Cave who competed in the log rolling competition. Log rolling requires the two-man team to roll a log, 12 inches in diameter and 10 feet long, 30 feet between two sets of upright stakes down a straight-away turning it end for end using peavys and cant hooks. The team with the best time wins the competition.

The Luray team ended up with a low score of 17 points (the lowest score wins). *(Charlie Turner, Reporter)* •••

## A Civil War Rerun

The Salem, Indiana, FFA Chapter worked on a unique project to bring back an awareness of history to their community.

During the Civil War, John Hunt Morgan raided their community. This fall, during the "Old Settlers Days" festival, the community recreated Morgan's raid.

Reenactors from Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky came to the event. The Salem FFA worked with the community committees, reenactors and others in hosting the event.

Mr. Robert Guillaume, chapter advisor, is a Civil War reenactor who represents the Louisiana Tiger Zouaves. He was responsible for establishing the reenactment in the Salem area and thus the chapter found a prime opportunity for community action in a BOAC program. *(Bob Sweeney, President)* •••

**A pretend Civil War battle was part of the activities coordinated by FFA like this scene of Confederate soldiers firing on Union troops.**

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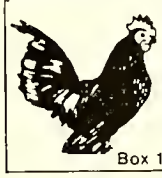
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# The Joke Page

One day a man dressed in work clothes went into a hospital. A young nurse asked what his problem was. He replied, *"I've got the shingles."* The nurse knew that the shingles was a serious skin rash, so she took his blood pressure and checked his temperature. The man was then told to wait until the doctor arrived. When the doctor finally came in, the man told the doctor he had the shingles since this morning. The doctor gave him a shot for this serious rash. After examining his entire body, the doctor inquired, *"Where are they?"* The workman then replied, *"Outside in my truck, when should I start?"*

Demetrius Metz
*Carson, North Dakota*

*"I threw a bunch of video game tokens into the snow!"*

Q: What do you call a trailer that is used to haul sheep?
A: A "ewe-haul."

Charles Seovill
*Fennville, Michigan*

Q: Why are they going to stop making round bales?
A: Because cows are not getting a square meal.

Gemma Smith
*Stewart, Ohio*

Traveling woman: *"Young man, can you tell me where I should go to catch the train to Boston?"*
Conductor: *"Just turn left and you'll be right."*
Woman: *"Young man, don't be so smart aleeky!"*
Conductor: *"Okay, then just turn right and you'll be left."*

Daniel Dennison
*Harvest, Alabama*

On their way to the annual farmers' picnic, a wife cautioned her husband, *"Now, Howard dear, don't eat too much, no leering at wives, telling horrid jokes, starting political arguments or monopolizing boring sports discussions. Just go and enjoy yourself."*

Oliver Frazier
*Rock Hall, Maryland*

*"I need a six-shooter,"* a five-year-old announced when he came home from kindergarten. *"Teacher says she's going to teach us to draw."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
*Bowen, Illinois*

Bumper sticker on a small foreign car laboring its way up Pike's Peak: *"I could have had a V-8."*

Craig Schneider
*Columbia City, Indiana*

A little girl came home from kindergarten one day and announced that she had learned a new song "God Bless America." To demonstrate, she sang a few bars: *"God bless America, land that I love; stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light of a bulb."*

Marguerite Reasner
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

Stan: *"Did you hear about the man who paid his restaurant tab with a counterfeit bill?"*
Jan: *"What did he have?"*
Stan: *"Decaffeinated coffee with imitation cream and artificial sweetener."*
Jan: *"Seems fair."*

Willie Wyatt
*Stuttgart, Arkansas*

Q: Why does a werewolf walking on the beach remind you of Christmas?
A: Because of its sandy claws.

Shannon Stewart
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

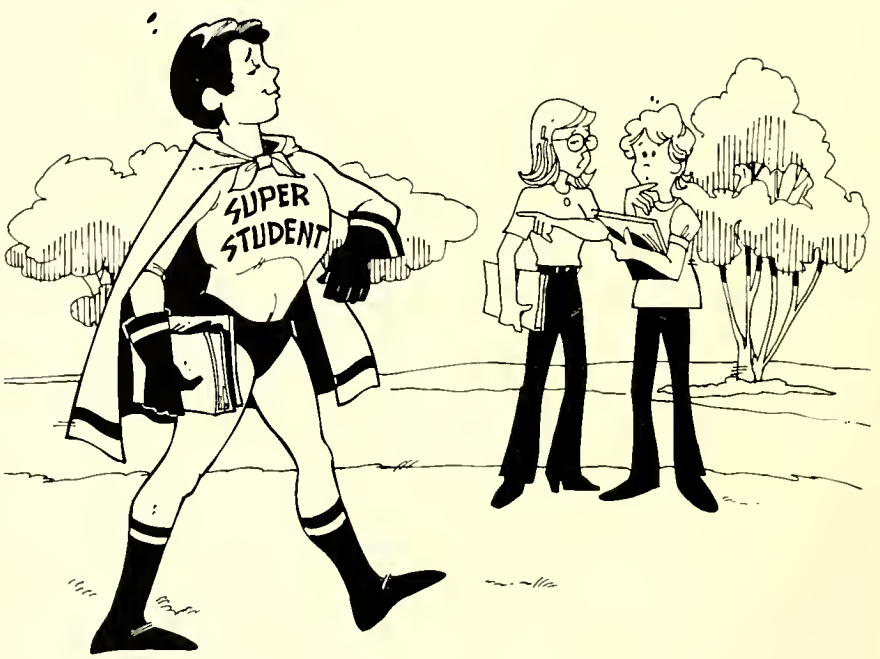
There was a man who went out to eat with his boss and the boss's wife. The man didn't have any table manners, and he burped. The boss said, *"How dare you burp before my wife."* The man said, *"Sorry, I didn't know it was her turn."*

Tim Young
*Ravenden, Arkansas*

Father's note to his son in college: *"I'm enclosing the $20 you requested. Incidentally, $20 is written with one zero, not two."*

Dean Walker
*Rush City, Minnesota*

## Charlie, the Greenhand




*"He let a couple of A's on his report card go to his head."*

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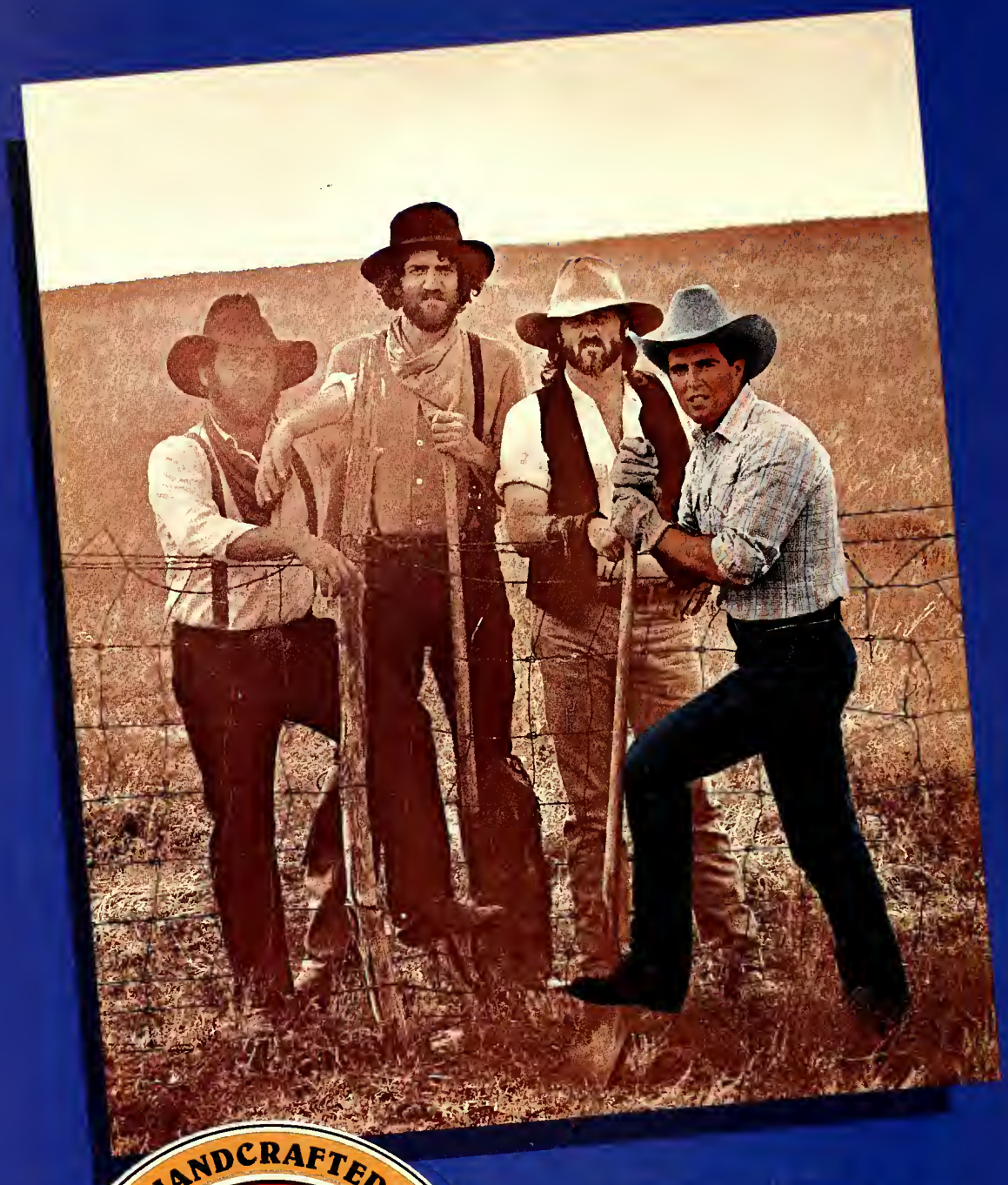

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